



# THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

## What's Noe Valley's Favorite Pastime? You Got It—Brunch!

By Lorraine Sanders

On any given weekend between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Noe Valley's breakfast spots are teeming with hungry patrons. Clusters of Noe Valleons — from slightly disheveled dot-com warriors to families with babes in arms—hug the doorways of the cafés along 24th and Church streets, waiting for a coveted spot at a table.

Yes, over the past few years brunch has become an essential part of a Noe Valley weekend. So why are we so fond of going out for breakfast?

Elizabeth Street resident John Bird speaks for most of us when he says, "Breakfast is my favorite meal to have in a restaurant. Nobody can make eggs sunny-side-up with a side of hash browns like a good breakfast place with an experienced fry cook."

Twenty-ninth Street resident Darren Ortsman, who eats breakfast out 8 to 12 times a month, traces his breakfast mania back to his childhood. "I used to go to the diner with my mom. We'd always eat French toast. [The habit] only got stronger in college," he says.

His favorite neighborhood eatery is Herb's Fine Foods, "for the simple breakfast at a reasonable price," he says. But Ortsman also likes to check out the



**Hot Breakfast Spots:** These Sunday brunchers are happy because they landed a table at Miss Millie's on 24th Street. For a list of other local options, see page 7. Photo by Beverly Thorp

more crowded establishments like Savor and Chloe's. "I subscribe to the line theory—you know, don't eat there unless there's a line."

David Molinaro, who lives on Cesar Chavez off Castro, also makes weekend brunch a regular ritual. "My best friend and I usually go out for breakfast every weekend, even if it is just for a muffin," he says. Like Ortsman, he frequents Herb's on 24th Street. "There is seldom any waiting at Herb's, and the service is quick and basic. Classic breakfasts too! Basic eggs, toast, bacon, and potatoes. Can you get more American than that?"

Ian Deutsch, another 29th Street

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

## Arab-Israeli Conflict Touches the Lives of Local Shopkeepers

By Olivia Boler

Imagine living in a place with views of the sea, rolling hills, the scent of jasmine on the breeze, and charming cafes, shops, and restaurants just down the street. It sounds a lot like Noe Valley, but in fact, the description is of Ramallah, the West Bank town that has been one of the hot spots of Arab-Israeli violence since September 2000.

For more than 18 months, many Noe Valley residents and merchants of Palestinian descent have been watching the daily bloodshed on Al Jazeera, the Arabic-language TV news channel. They also have been worrying about their family members living near the center of the conflict.

Chuck Rafidi, who has owned Sun Valley Dairy Market on the corner of Church and 28th streets since 1979, came to the United States fresh out of high school in 1966, a year before the Six-Day War, the war in which Israel captured the West Bank of the Jordan River from Jordan.

A native of Al-Bireh, a West Bank town right next to Ramallah, Rafidi has not been back to his homeland since

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## Noe Author Says Violent Entertainment Is Good for Kids

"Violence Should Have a Place in Children's Lives"

By Heidi Anderson

A few years ago, in a preschool sandbox near Noe Valley, a little girl picked up two *Lion King* action figures. She made one figure attack the other repeatedly, muttering "Murder Mufasa!"

After observing this kind of play, the director of the preschool fired off a letter to parents, warning that violence was creeping into their children's lives. She begged them to keep their kids away from television and movies, which she saw as the likely cause of violent behavior.

A parent at the school wrote a letter back saying he'd enjoyed plenty of cartoons, slapstick comedy, and action movies as a kid, and he didn't see the harm in letting kids watch some TV or movies.

When that letter was published in the preschool newsletter, it unleashed a flood of negative responses.

Author Gerard Jones, a Noe Street resident whose son happened to be attending the school, didn't join the debate, but he was struck by its intensity.



Nine-year-old son Nick was a consultant on Gerard Jones' new book, *Killing Monsters: Why Children Need Fantasy Games, Superheroes, and Make-Believe Violence*. And so were a number of Noe Valley parents and kids. Photo by Pamela Gerard

"Parents wrote so many letters—most of them anonymous—attacking this guy personally for having dangerous and bad ideas. Almost all of them said children should be restricted from violent media entirely."

Convinced that this was shaky advice,

Jones set out to investigate the topic in depth. "I wanted to prove my gut feeling that violent entertainment usually inspires kids to more rambunctious play, but actually makes them less aggressive in real life."

The result is his book *Killing Mon-*

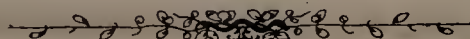
*sters: Why Children Need Fantasy Games, Superheroes, and Make-Believe Violence*, released this month by Basic Books. Jones will discuss and sign copies of his work at a publication party at Cover

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9





**Things Are Looking Up.** During a search for different vantage points, our photographer tried to get down to it and capture a bit of the neighborhood from the view of—let's see, a dog rolling on its back, a pigeon, a toddler recovering from a tantrum, a dropped penny, or a discarded parking ticket. But look at the solid construction of that house, the iron fence, the foliage focusing the sun to a small flash, and those clouds. Right now it's quiet down here, and a truth is realized: to get up, sometimes you have to get down. *Photo by Najib Joe Hakim*



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# Ready, Set, Brunch!

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dweller, knows his motivation for brunching out. "After a long night out, I want somebody to serve me. I don't want to do any work. In a word—laziness."

Deutsch sometimes makes breakfast at home, he says, "but rarely. It doesn't taste nearly as good as when the professionals make it for you."

While Deutsch laughingly claims breakfast out is all about convenience and food, he admits he likes the social side as well. "I like to discuss the night before among friends around the table."

Where does he go to 'dish'? "Hungry Joe's has a nice familial feeling to it. People often share tables with strangers because [the servers] hate to keep you waiting. The service is great and the food is good," Deutsch says.

Lauren Axelrod, who lives just off the Noe Valley-Mission border at Guerrero and 25th, agrees that brunch has become a prime social event. "The most brunch-worthy occasion for me is the chance to catch up with friends I haven't seen for a while." Axelrod finds that several local cafes fit the bill. "I seem to gravitate towards Herb's when I'm feeling like having some basic food, Savor when I'm in the mood for something a little more upscale, or Chloe's when it's during the week and I don't have to brave the wait."

"But what I really like about eating in Noe Valley is the fact that you can take a nice stroll before or after brunch and window shop. I take my dog up to Noe Valley sometimes and we walk around just enjoying the other dogs and people."

Dolores Street resident Philip Marcus also associates a good walk with a Noe Valley breakfast. "Miss Millie's is definitely a place [my partner and I] visit for a special brunch—and always when we have out-of-town guests. Our favorite plan, weather permitting, is to walk there, have a spectacular brunch, then walk back over the hill. This takes the guilt out of the gluttony."

Jane Peal of 25th Street is another big Miss Millie's fan. "I have always loved Miss Millie's. I love the aesthetic of the decor, the homemade biscuits and jam, fresh squeezed juice, good coffee, and comfortable booths," she says.

And that's saying a lot for Peal, who runs her own meal delivery and catering service.

Hmmm. So what are you waiting for? Get out there and brunch. But first, check out our roundup of local breakfast spots; see page 7. □



On Sundays, all eyes are on the signup sheet at Chloe's, the cozy cafe on Church near 26th Street.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

## From the Other Side of the Counter Cafés Say: "We're Cooking As Fast As We Can!"

By Lorraine Sanders

With so many residents and visitors to the neighborhood flocking to brunch these days, servers at local cafes have their work cut out for them. Most establishments get crowded, and stay that way.

Chloe's Café, which seats only 20 diners inside, often has six or seven names on the signup sheet at its door. "I'm very grateful that people wait as long as they do," says owner Steve Baker. "I wish I had better seating or could get the food out faster."

Baker and his wife have owned and operated the popular Church Street café since 1987. By now, they really know their customers. "Many people have been coming here since the '80s, and we know exactly how they like their eggs cooked. When they come in, we start cooking it. They don't even have to order," says Steve.

When asked how many eggs he uses on an average weekend, Baker just laughs. "It's a lot," he says. "We go through cases and cases of eggs. That's because Chloe's is the only breakfast place in the Western Hemisphere that only does scrambled eggs," he kids.

Baker has definitely noticed that breakfast is in vogue. "People just love brunch. Even Monday through Friday, people come in all day long up to 3 p.m., and all they order is brunch."

The brunch bunch hovering outside the 24th Street Café has also gotten large. "I'd say it's about half regulars and half people passing through, visiting Noe Valley," says owner and chef Joe Eadeh. "The wait is longest on Sunday," he notes. "On Saturday, people seem to be in more of a hurry somehow."

Regardless of how long patrons plan to linger over their plates, Eadeh is quick to point out that making good food takes a little time. "It takes at least five minutes to make good toast," he says, smiling.

For those in a rush, Pasta Pomodoro's Italian-inspired brunch might be the ticket to a full belly. "Five to ten minutes is the most anyone has to wait—unless

they are waiting for an outside table. If it's a beautiful, sunny day, it's 10 to 15 tops," says Hannah Gouldstone, a shift manager and server at Pasta Pomodoro for the past two years.

Asked whether her brunch-goers seem concerned about healthy eating, Gouldstone says, "Not really. I suppose we get requests for 'light' eggs and no oil, and we can really accommodate anyone's needs." But brunch isn't about being on a strict diet, she says.

"Brunch is a neighborhood thing: large gatherings, couples from the area coming in after a night out. They come to have some mimosas or a Bloody Mary on the patio and just kind of hang out," Gouldstone says. "People also stop by before or after doing shopping."

Herb's Fine Foods, a neighborhood staple since 1943, attracts lots of Noe Valley regulars too, says Amanda, a

longtime server who preferred not to give her last name. It also has a large front booth that's perfect for families. "About a quarter of the people that come in here are under 5. It's a great place [for kids]. We just love the kidlets," she says.

One thing common to the staff at all of these establishments is how much they like satisfying their customers.

"It can be busy, but it can be really nice," Gouldstone says of her weekend brunch experiences.

Amanda of Herb's agrees. "We just like working here. It's just nice being part of a good experience."

Baker from Chloe's sums it up well. "When you're in an area for a long time, it's really nice to see the same people. And we consider them friends." □



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Miss Millie's Restaurant on 24th Street is a popular destination for that special-occasion brunch.

Photo by Beverly Thorp

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# Noe Valley's Breakfast Champions

## Pick One from Our Menu

**Y**ou wake up and immediately know three things to be true: (1) you're hungry, (2) you want breakfast, and (3) there's no food in the house. So you decide to go out for breakfast. That part is easy. The hard part? Choosing which place in Noe Valley to make a beeline for.

The following list should reduce the guesswork and propel you toward the eggs, pancakes, and home fries you were oh so recently dreaming about.

### Chloe's 1399 Church Street at 26th 415-648-4116

**Hours:** Weekdays, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.;  
weekends, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
**Seats:** 20 inside, 16 outside

This cozy corner cafe feeds legions of fans each weekend morning and, in fact, all week long. Tables placed outside on warmer days and a small number of tables inside provide patrons with comfortable perches for breakfast or lunch. The menu is light and healthy, and food is presented more delicately than at most establishments. Like the fresh flowers placed in tiny vases on the tables, the scrambles and pancakes arrive looking fresh, simple, and wholesome. Popular breakfast favorites include the cinnamon croissant French toast, banana-walnut pancakes, and the red potato, cheddar, and onion scramble (\$5.95–\$6.95). Your food will arrive with your choice of seasoned home fries or a fruit cup filled with fresh melon, bananas, and strawberries. Staying true to diner-style service despite the quaint café ambiance, Chloe's never lets the coffee cups remain empty for long.

### Fattoush 1361 Church Street at Clipper 415-641-0678 **Brunch hours:** Sat., 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; Sun., 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. **Seats:** 35+ inside, 45+ outside

While Fattoush specializes in Middle Eastern cuisine, the weekend brunch offers an array of classic American scrambles, omelets, and pancakes. However, for a tasty departure from bacon and eggs, try the fisherman omelet, with crab, spinach, mushroom, onions, and mixed cheeses (\$8.95); cornflakes French toast with maple syrup (\$6.95); or the chicken apple sausage frittata (\$7.95). There's usually a short wait during brunch hours, and a recent visit revealed a dining room made up mostly of couples. Fattoush's dark wood paneling and crisp white tablecloths add sophistication to the surroundings. On sunny weekend days, light pours in through the large front window. The sun also warms up those lucky enough to secure a table in the lovely patio out back.

### Herb's Fine Foods 3991 24th Street near Noe 415-826-8937 **Hours:** Weekdays, 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.; weekends, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Seats:** 60

The last of the neighborhood's beloved "greasy spoons," Herb's Fine Foods sends its standard breakfast combos across the counter and into its vinyl booths without an ounce of pretension. On weekends, the solo diners sit at the U-shaped counter reading the paper and sipping coffee, while families and groups

crowd into the booths along the sides of the room. The food is predictable and a bargain compared to other Noe Valley eateries, so Herb's patrons remain extremely loyal. Favorites include the Denver omelet (\$5.95) and the eggs and bacon breakfast (\$5.45). The friendly, down-to-earth waitresses, an interior devoid of frilly decorations, and a 59-year history in the neighborhood secures Herb's as the sentimental favorite of Noe Valley's working stiffs.

### Hungry Joe's 1748 Church Street at Day 415-282-7333 **Hours:** Weekdays, 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; weekends, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Seats:** 25 inside, 28 outside

Like Herb's on 24th Street, this tiny diner on the edge of Noe Valley near 30th Street serves up standard breakfast fare and scrambles, and even has waitresses who call you "Hon." Popular orders include the Breakfast Special with two eggs, toast, and jelly (\$3.95) and Joe's Special Scramble (\$5.95) with ground beef, mushrooms, and spinach. Hungry Joe's may be one of the more casual breakfast joints Noe Valley has to offer, but the recent addition of the Mimosa (\$3.95) to the weekend brunch menu shows the influence of a younger, hipper crowd. Orange bolted-down seats, Formica tables, and framed retro posters add a '60s flavor to the decor. If it's sunny or if you have a canine companion, you can dine at one of the three or four outside tables. With its small seating area, Hungry Joe's often has hungry patrons lingering outside. But given the no-fuss efficiency with which the line cooks and wait staff serve up the food, the wait is never long.

### Miss Millie's Restaurant 4123 24th Street near Castro 415-285-5598 **Brunch hours:** Weekends, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Seats:** 50 inside, 20 outside

This charmer of a restaurant transforms traditional breakfast fare into delicious creations like the Maine Crab Cake served over poached eggs (\$13.90) and the gingerbread waffle served with pear compote, candied walnuts, and crème fraîche (\$8.75). Brunch entrees arrive piled high with roasted potatoes (\$4.25 as a side) and fresh bread. While brunch here is more expensive than at some other nearby restaurants, Miss Millie's innovative menu, '50s retro décor (the pale yellow walls are lined with an assortment of vintage china plates), and access to a sunny outdoor patio make your extra dollars worth the trip. There's a line out the door on Sundays, but the staff's pleasant demeanor and accepting attitude toward large groups and children keep the experience a special treat rather than a hassle. If you're in the mood to celebrate, the drink menu will help you make the first toast of the day in style.

### Pasta Pomodoro 4000 24th Street at Noe 415-920-9904 **Brunch hours:** Weekends, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Seats:** 87, including outside seating

If you've only been to Pasta Pomodoro for its cappellini, try out the weekend brunch the next time you're foraging for food on 24th Street. Maybe because it's known for pasta or maybe because it's a chain, Pasta Pomodoro rarely has the crowds that other 24th Street establishments do on the weekends. But the restaurant is still busy. The most popular brunch dish is the Firenze (\$6.50), two poached eggs on toasted foccacia, with spinach and mushrooms topped with parmesan cream sauce. The

brunch menu keeps the restaurant's Italian theme with omelets such as the Napoli (\$6.50), with mushrooms, pancetta, and ricotta cheese, and breads like the panettone (\$2.94), served with warm mascarpone cheese. On sunny days, you can dine at sidewalk tables.

### Pomelo 1793 Church Street at 30th 415-285-2257 **Brunch hours:** Weekends, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. **Seats:** 35 inside, 9 outside

The most recent addition to Noe Valley's brunch portfolio is Pomelo, which opened last spring. While not strictly vegetarian, Pomelo bills itself as "vegetarian friendly," for dinner and for brunch. Its spare but handsome modern decor is accented with a clutch of bright red chopsticks on each table. Brunch-seekers will find a range of offerings, from the Chelsea, two eggs your way or in a tofu scramble (\$6), to the Makena, banana-stuffed French toast with roasted macadamias and warm coconut syrup (\$7), to the Eastlake, smoked trout and red potato hash with wild rice, two poached eggs, and toast (\$8). While the "housemade chorizo" served by its predecessor (Valentine's Café) was a creative vegetarian version, Pomelo's "housemade chorizo" is the real thing and a featured item.

### Savor 3913 24th Street at Sanchez 415-282-0344 **Hours:** Sun.–Thurs., 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Fri.–Sat., 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. **Seats:** 100+ inside, 55 outside

Visit Savor for brunch this weekend and you'll find a swarm of hip hopefuls hovering outside on 24th Street. If you can see past the crowd, the front window showcases chefs and their (sometimes) flaming pans. Guests can plant themselves in the large dining area or in the spacious back patio to enjoy dishes like the Tsunami (\$7.50), a frittata featuring tofu and veggies, whole wheat pancakes with ginger and cinnamon (\$5.95), and a selection of 19 sweet and savory crepes (\$3.95 to \$7.95). Try the Barcelona crepe (\$6.25), with fontina cheese, glazed onions, spinach, and mushrooms, or the Oruba (\$3.95) with fresh strawberries, cinnamon, and brown sugar. This place also serves a great hamburger.

### 24th Street Cafe 3853 24th Street at Vicksburg 415-282-1213 **Hours:** Mon.–Sat., 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sun., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Seats:** 25 inside, 6 outside

Happily floating somewhere between a cafe and a grill, the 24th Street Cafe is a bustling haven for those seeking solid breakfast or lunch fare. An eclectic crowd of regulars and tourists—singles, couples, and families—keeps the dining room pleasantly full during the noon hour and provides an audience for the cooking acumen on display in the open kitchen. You can sample all the usual egg-and-bacon dishes or try a more exotic omelet (\$7.45 and up), such as the Marina, with fresh tomatoes and cheese, or the Jerusalem, with feta, sun-dried tomatoes, and scallions. The café is spiffy, the staff is friendly, and you can't beat the location, across from a great used bookstore.

### Le Zinc 4063 24th Street near Castro 415-647-9400 **Brunch hours:** Weekends, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Breakfast also served weekdays from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.** **Seats:** 55 inside, 12 outside

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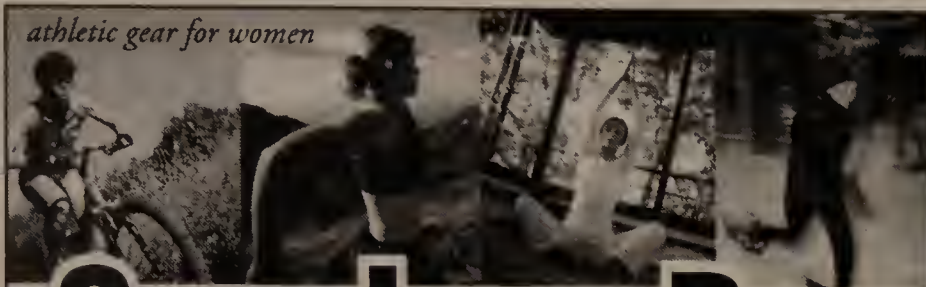
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# To Jones, Killing Monsters Is Just Child's Play

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to Cover Booksellers on Friday, April 12, at 7 p.m.

Jones, 44, acknowledges he has ties to the culture that produces make-believe violence. He has penned dozens of comic book titles, including *Spiderman*, *X-Men*, and *Superman*, and authored two books on comics and TV sitcoms, *Comic Book Heroes* and *Honey, I'm Home!*

But his interest in the subject goes deeper than career advancement. He says he remembers all too well how violent entertainment and play figured in his life as a kid.

Jones was raised by his two parents, both high school English teachers, in the South Bay. He says his mother, who had also spent several years working for the civil rights movement, believed that any kind of violence was wrong.

"When I was about 9, I was playing with a toy gun. I came upon my mom in the house and playfully clicked the gun at her. She turned away from me, in horror and disgust. Later she told me it had reminded her of all the violence going on in the world."

That was fine, says the adult Jones, "but she couldn't see it as child's play, and she didn't acknowledge where I was coming from as a 9-year old boy. I wish she'd played along for a moment, because it was just that—play."

Jones believes that "if you as an adult treat your child's fantasy as real, your kid will never learn the difference between the two. Ideally, should you be 'shot at' by a kid who's playing with you, you should grab your chest and fall down."

Or, at the very least, you should smile. He says an important reason for playing along with fantasies, even if only a little, is that it shows children their fantasies are acceptable.

"They look to us to help make the distinction between reality and fantasy. If we act as if their play is real, we may blur the lines for them."

## Steeling Oneself for Danger

A great deal of Jones' book focuses on violent video games—those that involve graphic depictions of shootings, blood, and gore.

Jones describes one game, called *Half-Life*, in which the player is a lone scientist hiding a research project from both a corrupt government and evil aliens. "It's you against two huge forces. There's shooting and lots of blood squirting," Jones admits. "But what people may not know is that most of your time is spent walking around, steeling yourself for danger and hanging in suspense."

In the book, he interviews hardcore game players, all of whom told Jones they were unable to play the game well unless they remained in control of their emotions. "You can't win these games if you're just angry," Jones concludes.

When chided about using the book as an excuse to play video games himself, Jones laughs. "No, I've never been a video game player. I was as ignorant about violent games as anyone before I started this."

In fact, *Killing Monsters* took five years to complete. "I must have talked to a couple hundred parents, and at least a hundred kids," says Jones.

He also interviewed dozens of professionals in the field of child psychology, and analyzed numerous studies gauging kids' reactions to violence in the media.

Some of the stories Jones recounts came out of his own Art and Story Workshops, the classes he leads for children all over the Bay Area. In the workshops, kids create and tell their fantasies through the art of cartooning.

But many of his best sources were Noe Valley parents. "I don't know if it would have happened if I hadn't lived here," he says. "There's an openness here to alternative ideas, beyond those of the parents who wrote such angry letters about the Mufasa incident."

"Perhaps they were open-minded because most of the parents I talked to here in Noe Valley were also teachers and therapists, and they spend a lot of time listening to kids."

Jones travels quite often to other parts of the country to speak about his subject. He has served on conference panels on children and media at the University of Chicago and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He also has been

## From Gerard Jones' *Killing Monsters: Why Children Need Fantasy Games, Superheroes, and Make Believe Violence*

(© 2002, Basic Books)

Many of us worried about how we would help children deal with the terror of September 11, but when I went into the classrooms, I found that the children were far less shaken than their parents and teachers. Most of them talked about the horrific images they'd seen with a mixture of anger and excitement — and a lot of them wanted to draw pictures, tell stories, or play games involving planes destroying buildings or soldiers fighting terrorists. This isn't a failure to react appropriately to tragedy: this is how children deal with it."

In junior high, Jimmy fell in love with first-person shooter games like *Doom* and *Quake* in which the player has to explore a fantasy environment and gun down the bizarre opponents who attack him. [His grandmother] Leila supported him in his enthusiasm. "Having been responsible for raising five younger siblings my whole childhood," she said, "I grew up with a lot of stress and anger. I still remember what a huge release it was to play war and shoot up not only my siblings but other kids in the neighborhood who had it so much easier than me. Jimmy doesn't have that, because nobody plays war in our neighborhood, and they probably wouldn't play with him anyway. But I could see him achieving the same release in his video games. He was always calmer and more confident after spending a while with his games."

interviewed on National Public Radio's "Fresh Air" and "Morning Edition."

He says he has found a very different attitude elsewhere. "Like in the Midwest, for instance, I sense a real urge to protect kids from media violence. It's almost a nervous fear that kids are going to be overly influenced."

He hopes his book reaches those parents. "There's a difference between protecting your kids and trying to script who they are," Jones argues that a parent's overreaction to normal aggressive play can cause kids to feel they're "wrong" and perhaps "weird," and may lead the child, paradoxically, to abnormal aggression in real life.

## How Should Parents React?

But aren't there some kids who get whipped into a lather by violent games, movies, or TV? For parents who find that to be the case, Jones prescribes some time-honored techniques: ask the child to make choices about what entertainment he or she uses, and set reasonable limits for how much time is devoted to each.

"The problem may simply be overuse of entertainment," he says.

Jones also doesn't flinch when asked about the obvious problem of allowing your children to reenact violent scenes on the playground.

"The first time a kid imitates a Power Ranger and kicks a playmate, he or she gets a lesson in reality—a sore foot and a crying friend."

Then there's the question that inevitably pops up in any discussion of teenage boys: What about Columbine and the other school shootings?

"White male shooters, feeling angry and impotent, have been around since forever," says Jones. "One psychologist I interviewed believes the shootings are a form of suicide, the kind where you take

others with you.

"Only a few of the school shooters played violent shooter games or liked violence," he continues. "The most important commonality in these kids is that they all felt the world was ignoring them."

So isolation could be the real culprit. "That's the whole point of my book," Jones says. "I'm asking parents to be more involved with their kids."

## Practicing What He Preaches

Jones is aware how his message might be received by other parents, people on the front lines of the struggle with violent influences and behaviors. He openly refers to the lessons he and his wife Jennie are learning as they raise their son Nick, a third-grader at Live Oak School.

"He helps me in some surprising ways to understand this," says Jones, remembering a time when Nick was about 5.

"Nick was a big Power Rangers fan." But when he became fascinated with the PBS show *Teletubbies*, Jones figured his son would discard the militant Rangers and move on to the *Teletubbies*' more nurturing style of expression.

"But he had a dream he called 'The Battle Show,'" Jones recalls. "In the dream, the *Teletubbies* turned into Power Rangers. He eventually made a game out of it and got his friends playing it."

"It was a distilling moment for me," Jones says. He saw how early in life children can deal with aggression in creative ways.

"I realized that violence should have a place in children's lives." □

Gerard Jones is scheduled to discuss his book on National Public Radio's "Fresh Air" in early April. For more information on *Killing Monsters*, visit his web site at [www.gerardjones.com](http://www.gerardjones.com).

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## Thoughts of Loved Ones in Palestine Bring Worry and Frustration

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

1983, but he fondly recalls the beautiful landscape and peaceful way of life. "There are four seasons, and it's nice, natural, easy living there," says Rafidi. "No one had social or financial problems. It was peaceful and prosperous."

Rafidi's was the only Christian family in the Muslim-dominated town, but everyone got along without religious or ideological strife, he says. Neighboring Ramallah was predominantly Christian, and the two towns ran right into each other. Today, perhaps as many as 90 percent of the Christians have emigrated to the U.S. or Europe, but most Muslims have stayed.

All of Rafidi's immediate family is in the United States now, but he keeps in touch with his cousins back in Al-Bireh. "Since the occupation began, things have been very bad for my relatives," Rafidi sighs. "They try to survive as best they can, and we talk on the phone at least once a month. Everyone there has cell phones now, just like here. It's quite modern."

Still, Rafidi is concerned about his cousins' safety.

Charlie Harb is worried about his relatives as well. He frequently communicates with his uncle, a cardiovascular surgeon at Ramallah Hospital, via e-mail. Harb was born and raised in Noe Valley after his parents and older sisters emigrated to the U.S. A graduate of Riordan High School and the University of San Francisco, Harb owns both an accounting practice and a laundromat in Noe Valley. "My uncle in Ramallah is not doing well, but he e-mails when he can," Harb says.

Joe Eadeh, the proprietor of the 24th Street Café on the corner of 24th and Vicksburg streets, knows Harb's uncle, and has cousins who live across the street from Ramallah Hospital. During the latest outbreak of violence, his cousins have been forced to take shelter in their basement. They also have seen the hospital surrounded by Israeli soldiers and tanks. According to Eadeh's relatives, the soldiers have turned away ambulances carrying patients, as well as people who were trying to donate blood for casualty victims.

Others in Noe Valley have friends and family who have been traumatized by the Israeli army's targeting of the hospital.

Sam Salameh, who owns the newsstand Good News on 24th Street, is frustrated because of his family's living conditions back in his hometown of Birzeit.

Recently, his mother was suffering from a kidney stone and had arranged to have it removed at the hospital in Ramallah, since there is no hospital in Birzeit. What would normally be a 15-minute drive took the ambulance four hours because of all the checkpoints. Furthermore, once the emergency vehicle arrived for the pre-arranged appointment, its occupants were told that her doctor was not there: Israeli troops were not allowing anyone to leave their homes that day, including the hospital's medical staff. The ambulance was forced to turn around and make the long drive back to Birzeit.

"You want to hear stories?" Salameh says, raising his eyebrows. "I have so many stories like that. What happened to my mother is what happens on a daily basis. You've read about the pregnant women getting shot on their way to the hospital to deliver their babies? Kids [trying to go to school] are getting shot or bombed in the streets all the time, but the mainstream media shows everything upside-down. They show the Palestinians as terrorists, but the Israelis are doing the exact same thing. It's frustrating."

Frustration is the word Palestinian Americans use most frequently when talking about the situation in the Middle East. It is the emotion that comes over their features and causes them to shake their heads.

The last time Harb visited Ramallah in 1987, his sister, who was born there, was stopped and strip-searched after disembarking from their flight. Because Harb was born in the United States, he was spared the same ordeal. "It was a culture shock for me," he says. "You have to stop and show your papers whenever the soldiers want you to. You have to go by the Israeli Army's rules."

Eadeh and his wife Jacqueline's family, who are also Ramallah natives, still own a home there, and they and their three daughters make frequent visits. Their last two trips were in 1996 and 1999, right before the most recent intifada, or uprising of the Palestinians against the occupation.

Eadeh recalls during the 1996 visit that after getting off the airplane, all Arab passengers had to wait in line for a search of their property. Their passports were taken from them, and once the check was completed, the passports were tossed unceremoniously in a pile. The travelers were left to sift through 200 passports in order to find their own, while those with U.S. or Israeli passports passed through without any interference.

"I said to one of the people checking [passports] that it wasn't humane, but he just said that was the way it was," Eadeh shakes his head. "It makes me very angry. Israel says it's a democracy and a supporter of human rights. But this applies



Joe Eadeh, who owns the 24th Street Café, is anxious about his Palestinian cousins who have been living in what has become an Israeli war zone.

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

only to Israelis. It's not like it is here," he says, indicating his restaurant and neighbors. "Here, there is communication. We have so many different kinds of people and there is an open dialogue."

Perhaps what is most maddening to Palestinians and their families in the U.S. is the stripping away of the fundamentals of self-government. In the occupied territories, water and electricity can be shut off without warning. Rafidi says his relatives lose their power whenever anything bad happens in Israel.

To Harb, the diversion of the West Bank's water supply to *kibbutzim*, Israeli settlements, is another practice that should be abolished. "The area is highly agricultural, yet when I was there [in 1987], I saw dry, parched farmland on one side and swimming pools on the other."

Salameh, who received his MBA from the University of Texas in Austin and has owned Good News for six years, says his customers are supportive and understanding of the situation in the Middle East, but he wishes Americans in general were better informed about the Palestinians' plight.

"When [Timothy] McVeigh bombed the [Alfred P. Murrah Federal] building in Oklahoma City, everyone presumed it was a Palestinian. But it wasn't," Salameh says. "I hope people will listen to the other side, and not pre-judge. There is always the other side of the coin."

As for the most recent clashes in Ramallah, all four men share a sense of helplessness and say there is little they can do for their families except call and e-mail. All of them are hoping for a quick and peaceful end to the senseless violence.

None of the men condones the actions of Palestinian suicide bombers who are killing innocent people in cafes and on buses in crowded cities like Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. At the same time, they understand the desperation that can lead to such unspeakable acts.

"The majority of Arabs want peace," Salameh says. "They want to work, to own a car, to own a house. They want their children to go to school everyday without worrying for their safety.... But when tanks come in and bulldoze their homes, even refugee-camp homes, and cut off the electricity—if you don't have

a house and you can't go to work, if you don't have a future, you feel as if you have nothing to lose."

Says Eadeh, "I haven't seen Jerusalem since 1995 because I'm not allowed to go there. People are confined to their own towns. After years of that, of course people will explode."

Rafidi, Eadeh, and Salameh all want an independent, self-governing Palestinian state, with secure borders. They also want more involvement from the American government, as long as it's fair to both Arabs and Israelis.

"What we need is dialogue and communication," Salameh says. "[The U.S. should support] the many leftist, liberal groups in Israel who support peace, but who don't agree with [Israel Prime Minister Ariel] Sharon's agenda or his military strategy."

Harb echoes that sentiment. "What we need are more moderate voices. Most Israelis and Arabs want peace. They all want the same thing."

And peace is attainable, says Rafidi. "I would like to see a full withdrawal of the Israeli occupation back to the pre-1967 borders. If we can implement the idea of Israel's right to exist, and they can recognize the right of a Palestinian state to exist, everything would be solved and the whole area would prosper."

With a shrug, he adds, "It has to happen sooner or later." □



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Chuck Rafidi, of Sun Valley Market on Church Street, remembers a time when the West Bank was peaceful and filled with cafes and shops like those in Noe Valley.

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim





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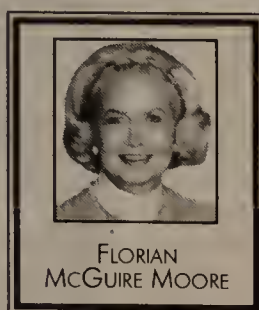
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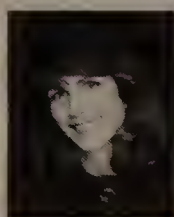
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# Library Renovation Starts Rolling

By Erin O'Briant

About 40 Noe Valley residents and San Francisco library staff met on March 14 to begin deciding how to renovate the 86-year-old Noe Valley – Sally Brunn Branch Library at 451 Jersey Street.

"We are going to be integral to the history of this library," said Jeannene Przyblyski, chair of a new library committee formed by the group Friends of Noe Valley. Przyblyski presented a slide show and sketched the history of the Noe Valley Branch before opening the meeting to comments and suggestions.

Noe Valley residents agreed that the renovation should preserve the original building as much as possible while bringing seismic standards, mechanical and electrical systems, accessibility, and staff work space up to date.

"We have a real drive to do restoration," said Deputy City Librarian Paul Underwood, representing the San Francisco Library. "The integrity of the exterior should be maintained as much as possible." Noe Valley's library is one of the city's historic Carnegie libraries and was built in 1916.

Underwood said the city is considering renting bookmobiles to provide library services to neighborhood patrons during the estimated two years the branch will be closed for renovation. Children's programs, such as the popular lapsits, will be housed in another neighborhood building, possibly a school. Nearby branches may extend their hours to accommodate Noe Valley residents, Underwood said.

Some Noe Valley Branch staff may



Dave Monks, president of the residents group Friends of Noe Valley, presided over a March meeting on the future of the Noe Valley Library. The 1916 Carnegie building is set to be closed in early 2004 for an earthquake retrofit that could last up to two years. Photo by Pamela Gerard

work at other branches during the upgrade, according to Underwood, but no staff will be cut during the renovation.

Marilyn Thompson, the library's program manager for branch renovations, said the overhaul would begin in early 2004. If all goes according to plan, the new, safer Noe Valley Library would reopen in the fall of 2005.

Because the bond measure that provides for the upgrades does not include money for interior projects such as new furniture and books, attendees discussed the need to raise money to thoroughly renovate the branch.

"My sense is that this community is going to want more than what the bond provides for," said Dave Monks, president of the Friends of Noe Valley. The Friends and Foundation of the San Francisco Public Library will work with the Friends of Noe Valley to raise additional funds, he said.

Some participants expressed a desire to make the branch a "green" building, meaning the library would meet stringent environmental standards and pay for green certification. Underwood reassured attendees that the renovation would include environmentally sound details such as low-flow toilets and low-energy-use electrical systems, but said paying for such certification was not included in the bond measure that originally funded the renovation.

To get more feedback from residents about their hopes for the Noe Valley Branch, city library staff, in conjunction with the Friends of Noe Valley and the

East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club, will distribute a community needs assessment survey during the next two months. Survey forms will be available at the library and at Cover to Cover bookstore; they also will be distributed along 24th Street.

In May or June, the staff will present the results of the survey at the Library Commission meeting, held at 4 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month at the Main Library, 100 Larkin Street.

The local renovation is one of 24 branch library improvement projects taking place throughout the city. Because the Noe Valley – Sally Brunn Branch Library has been identified as a seismic hazard, it will be one of the first facilities to undergo renovation. The citywide renovation program is scheduled to be completed in 2010.

Those interested in helping out with the survey should call the Noe Valley Library at 695-5095. □

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**Buryn's Eye View.** Two strollers keep 24th Street between them while on their way east in this 1994 photo.  
Photo by Ed Buryn

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# POLICE BEAT

## Eggings Have Neighbors Fried

The following crime summaries were culled from incident reports filed at Mission Police Station in February 2002.

### Vehicle Vandalism: 12:30 a.m. on Feb. 2; 24th and Homestead streets

At 12:30 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 2, a man was driving his Volvo eastbound on 24th Street near Homestead when an unknown suspect threw eggs at the car's open sunroof, rendering the sunroof window inoperable. The suspect also threw eggs at the hood of the car, damaging the paint. Later, an unidentified person provided the driver with a possible name and address for the egg-throwing suspect. Police responded to the address, but were unable to locate the suspect.

### Shooting into Inhabited Dwelling: During the week of Feb. 5-12; 400 block of Jersey Street

A resident of a home on the 400 block of Jersey Street near Diamond called police to report that an unknown suspect fired two gunshots into her front bay window sometime during the week of Feb. 5-12. The resident did not immediately notice the bullet holes because they were covered by her drapes. Police searched the premises for casings, but did not find any and believe the bullet holes may have come from a BB gun. The resident also told police that her family previously had

eggs thrown at their home during a few months last fall.

### Petty Theft with Prior Conviction: 8 p.m. on Feb. 6; Store Burglary and Forcible Entry: Between 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. on Feb. 24; 3900 block of 24th Street

At 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 6, an employee of a grocery store on the 3900 block of 24th Street noticed a large man — about 6 feet, 200 pounds — enter the store and glance down several aisles. Eventually, he walked down the liquor aisle and grabbed three bottles of cognac, valued at \$91, and placed them under his sweatshirt. He then passed several clerks at their cash registers and walked out the door. The store employee stopped the man after he left the premises, placed him under citizen's arrest, and called police.

Police transported the suspect to Mission Station for booking. A police computer check revealed that the man, 44, was currently on parole and had served jail time for previous thefts.

Two and a half weeks later, at 11:15 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 24, police were again called to the grocery store after an employee witnessed two male suspects, aged 18 to 20, quickly exiting the store with a large black bag.

Earlier that evening, at around 8 p.m., one of the suspects had come to the store to apply for a job and was taken by the store manager to the "employees only" area for an application. An hour later, an employee discovered the suspect wandering around the "employees only" area and told him to leave. Not long after, another employee spotted the suspect in the store's upstairs office, where liquor items and cigarettes are stored (in a locked area surrounded by wire fencing). The suspect told the employee he was looking for the bathroom, and she escorted him out of the area.

Two hours later, the store manager dis-

covered that two small holes had been cut into the fence that secured the cigarettes and alcohol. Twenty cartons of Parliament and Merit Gold cigarettes, valued at \$900, were missing, along with six bottles of Baileys Irish Cream, valued at \$150.

Due to lack of evidence, Crime Scene Investigations was not notified, but the store manager was given an additional loss form and a follow-up form.

Police also searched the area for the two suspects, but failed to find them. The case was forwarded to the SFPD's Burglary Division.

### Shoplifting: Between 12:49 p.m. and 1 p.m. on Feb. 26; 3900 block of 24th Street

Around 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 26, a 6'4", 225-pound male, aged 30 to 35, wearing red high heels and a denim miniskirt, entered a clothing store on the 3900 block of 24th Street. The suspect removed several dresses of various colors and styles, valued at approximately \$850, from the display racks. He then walked around the store and asked an employee questions about other items in the store.

As the employee walked to the register counter, the suspect took the dresses and left without paying. The employee saw the suspect walk eastbound on 24th Street, but due to his size, did not try to stop him. The case has been forwarded to the SFPD's Burglary Division. □

*The Voice thanks Noe Valley Beat Officer Lorraine Lombardo for providing the incident reports for this month's Police Beat. The reports were summarized by Kathy Dalle-Molle.*



## SFPD Contacts

Noe Valley straddles two San Francisco police districts — Mission and Ingleside. Officers from the Mission Police District, headquartered at Mission Station, cover the northern half of Noe Valley, from 21st to Cesar Chavez Street. Ingleside police have jurisdiction over the southern half of Noe Valley, from Cesar Chavez to 30th Street.

Mission District residents and merchants should report recurring crime or safety problems to Mission Station by phoning 558-5400. You may also send e-mail to Captain Greg Corrales at [gregory\\_corrales@ci.sf.ca.us](mailto:gregory_corrales@ci.sf.ca.us) or attend the regular police-community meetings held the last Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 30, at 6 p.m., at Mission Station, 630 Valencia Street. (To report anonymously on drugs, gangs, or other crimes, call the nontraceable hotline at 558-5452.)

Residents and merchants in "outer" Noe Valley — south of Cesar Chavez — may contact Ingleside Station by calling 404-4000 or e-mailing Captain Kevin Dillon at [kevin\\_dillon@ci.sf.ca.us](mailto:kevin_dillon@ci.sf.ca.us). The Ingleside police-community meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month at Ingleside Station, 1 Sergeant John Young Lane, off the 2000 block of San Jose Avenue. The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 23, at 7 p.m.

To report a crime in progress, call 911. (Cell phone users, dial 553-8090.)



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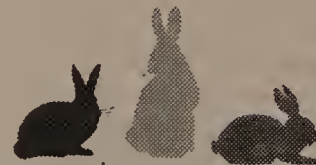


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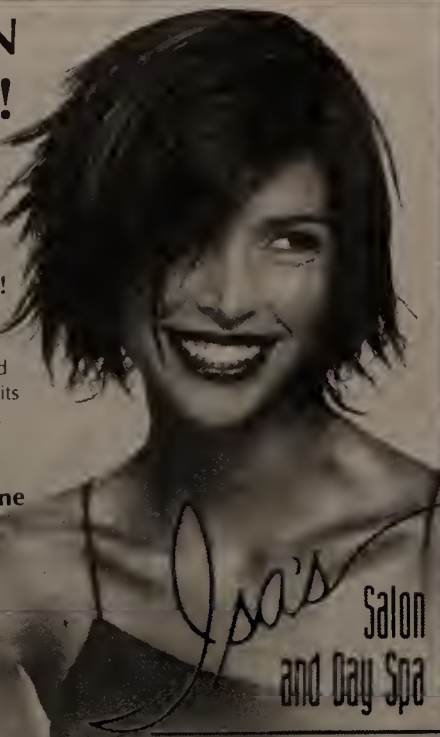
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## This 'n' That

By Laura McHale Holland

Spring is here, and visual artist **Jenny Badger Sultan** is closely watching the sour cherry tree in her backyard garden at the northwest corner of Sanchez and 30th streets. As soon as the white blossoms start to bud, she'll remove the dozen or so blue glass bottles that adorn the tree in winter. She hung her bottle collection out on impulse several years ago.

"Just about anywhere in the desert you will find dead trees where people have upended bottles on the branches, and I've always thought those were wonderful," she says. "Also, I'm interested in African-American folk traditions, and hanging bottles in trees is one of them. There's a whole practice in the rural southern U.S. where people make what are called yard shows. They hang all kinds of interesting found objects on fences and trees and arrange them around their yards."

\*\*\*

Most gardens in our neck of the woods are not visible from the street, but Sultan's is, so you might want to stroll by and take a peek. While you're ambling along, you may see local author and 30th Street resident **Terry Ryan** walking her pit bull Ollie. Ryan, who wrote the heartwarming bestseller *The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio: How My Mother Raised 10 Kids on 25 Words or Less*, recently returned from London. "I've been all over the world touring for this book, and it's just re-convinced me that Noe Valley is absolutely the best place in the world to live," she says.

*Prize Winner's* paperback edition comes out April 9, and Ryan's publisher, Touchstone, has arranged for her to appear at bookstores throughout the Bay Area, including A Clean Well-Lighted Place for Books on Van Ness Avenue on May 16.

About the phenomenal success of her book, Ryan says, "It's been such a thrill. Who would ever think something so positive would come out of something so negative, like the death of someone you love so much, but this book is keeping my mother's spirit alive, and who could ask for more?"

\*\*\*

An excerpt from **Andrea Bastidas'** parting message to friends and family shortly before her death from cancer on Feb. 27 follows a parallel thread. Showing wisdom beyond her 16 years, Bastidas wrote, "I have learned to appreciate many more things in life. I've learned to be forgiving and not to hold any grudges. It [her illness] was really hard for me, but the best thing about it all was that it made

me stronger. And no matter what, always stay on top of your things, whether it be school, work, or whatever it is you may be doing. And always remember, keep your head up and that something good always comes out of something bad. My good thing was you letting me into your life."

First diagnosed with a rare form of cancer that began in a muscle in her hand while she was attending St. Paul's Elementary School, Bastidas matriculated to Leadership High School in 1999. Likened by her fellow students to the Energizer Bunny and known for her "Coca-Cola" smile, she was given an award for "Best Personality" in the 2000-01 school year, a year in which she not only endured numerous cancer treatments but also the unexpected death of both of her parents. An aunt and uncle took over the care of Andrea, her younger sister Rosanna, who is a student at St. Paul's, and brother Eduardo, who graduated from Leadership last year.

"I will always remember what she offered us despite all that had been taken from her," says Elisa Dumesnil, a counselor at Leadership who became a family friend. "She was very giggly, and when she started laughing, she'd laugh a lot.... Her presence was so loving. I think she knew her life was going to be short, and just wanted to soak it all up."

\*\*\*

Perhaps someday, one of the hundreds of mourners who packed St. Paul's Church for Andrea Bastidas' funeral on March 1 will write a book about this teen who was taken, as local poet **A.D. Winans** might say, by "Lady Death."

Winan's poem of that name, along with poems by Ezra Pound and Kenneth Koch, has been set to music by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer William Bolcom. The resulting work, entitled *The Naumburg Cycle*, will premiere April 29 at prestigious Tully Hall in New York City.

Winans, a native San Franciscan now living on Clipper Street, has authored over 30 books of poetry. "Lady Death," the first of his poems to be set to music, was originally published in the *Anderson Valley Advertiser* in Boonville, Calif.

"Fate works in strange ways," says Winans. "Had the composer not subscribed to the *Advertiser*, the poem would never have been set to music."

The poem delivers a wallop in such lines as:

she's harder than a pimp  
she's cunning, she's cruel  
she's after me  
she's after you  
she wears a top hat  
she carries a cane  
her eyes a dagger aimed at your heart  
lady death  
lady death

Also, hot off the press of Dust Books this month is Winans' memoir *The Holy*

*Grail: The Charles Bukowski/Second Coming Revolution*. Bukowski, known for his hair-raisingly honest, free-form poetry, died in 1994.

"It's more than just a book about my relationship with Bukowski. It covers my days publishing the small magazine *Second Coming*, the West Coast small press scene in the '70s and '80s, and my relationship with local Beat poets like the late Bob Kaufman and Jack Micheline."

\*\*\*

**Cara Black**, another member of our neighborhood literati, has a book coming out from Soho Press April 14. Entitled *Murder in the Sentier*, it is the third in Black's series of mysteries featuring detective Aimée Leduc. The book received a starred review in *Publishers' Weekly*.

"The book is set in Paris, which is off the beaten track, and it's really nice when people take notice of something that isn't mainstream and has more of a literary feel," says Black, who lives on Alvarado Street. "They might put your book not just in the mystery section, but also on the table with the other new books, and so it gives you wider recognition."

Black, whose first book in this series was inspired by real events in a friend's family during the Nazi occupation of France during World War II, will be signing her latest oeuvre on April 18, 7 p.m., at Cover to Cover Booksellers (3812 24th Street). If you miss that, maybe you can fly to Paris, where she'll be reading at Brentano's on June 20.

\*\*\*

If you can't make it to Paris, perhaps you can jet to New York to catch one of our former neighbors, **S.K. Thoth**, performing in his scanty red, gold, and black costume in Angel Tunnel in Central Park.

In Egyptian mythology, Thoth is the god of the moon and of wisdom. Thoth the musician is inspired by this ancient realm, and by his violin in creating his music, which he describes as "the divine message that I have been blessed to bring to this world."

Filmmaker Sarah Kernochan heard him singing in the Angel Tunnel, and was, says Thoth, "instantly inspired to do a documentary about me." That film, *Thoth*, just won an Academy Award, for best short documentary. You may have seen Thoth twirling on stage at the Oscars.

Thoth, who left his Noe Valley apartment two years ago when his rent hit \$2,100 per month, used to perform in the neighborhood at the Noe Valley Ministry and Bethany Church, as well as every weekend for years in front of Martha's Coffee on 24th Street.

\*\*\*

Tokyo is more to the liking of Dolores Street resident **James Paul McLean**. In December he began a six-month assignment there as part of the consulting arm of Hewlett-Packard, for whom he has worked for 15 years.

Here's a slice of an e-mail he sent: "Whether it's kimono-clad ladies with mobile phones at their ears shuffling onto the trains that worm their way under the city, or blue-haired teenagers standing in line to offer prayers at the Shinto temples, people here seem very happy crossing back and forth between very different worlds.... Prayer notes, written on



Baby Sophia Isabella Grace Ortiz, born last Oct. 31, is already known around town for her sweet smile and bouffant hairdo.

wooden plaques decorated with a horse (this year's animal on the Japanese calendar), dangle in crowds at the entrance to temples, asking for luck in business ventures alongside more traditional requests for happy marriages, success in exams, and babies."

\*\*\*

They didn't try writing prayer notes on a wooden plaque, but third-generation Noe Valleeon **Anna Siria Clerkin Ortiz** and her husband, **James Ortiz**, didn't think they could have a baby of their own, and they were poised to embark on the long journey to adoption. Then, early in 2001, Anna got pregnant. Their daughter, **Sophia Isabella Grace Ortiz**, was born Oct. 31, 2001, at 7:58 p.m., at Alta Bates Medical Center in the East Bay.

"I didn't realize that some of the nurses were in costume that night, and when I was going through my contractions I thought I was hallucinating when I saw a duck and a pumpkin come through my room," recalls Anna.

Now 6 months old, little Sophia is a crowd stopper. "Every single time we take her out, without fail, people will stop us to comment on her hair. Sophia was born with a full head of hair. As weeks passed, it began to curl up, and now those loose curls kind of stand 'straight up' off of her head. People have even asked me if I put gel or mousse in her hair to make it do that. Nope. It's all natural," Anna says.

Anna can no longer recall what she used to do with her free time. "I also feel like I am now part of this great new moms club. I can be waiting in line at the bank, and another mother and I will begin talking about stretch marks. It's amazing. We seem to be able to talk about anything—the exhaustion, the frustration, and the absolute joy that parenthood brings."

Both mom and dad (whose first date was at Bud's Ice Cream, a one-time neighborhood institution at 24th and Castro streets) say that parenting has slowed them down and made them realize what is truly important in life. "It's not the huge house or the fab car. It's making a difference in the life of your child—being with her, sharing with her, loving and protecting her, all the while encouraging her to be independent and to explore the world around her."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

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## This 'n' That

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

Some young folks who have ventured successfully into the world around them are the members of the speech team at **Adda Clevenger Junior Preparatory and Theater School for Children**. In February, the team won first place in the annual Grammar School Speech Tournament held at Mercy High School. Located at 23rd and Fair Oaks streets, Clevenger has participated in this tournament for eight years. But it is the first time the students have won this award. It is also the first time in recent memory that any team has beaten the St. Thomas the Apostle School team, so the victory was a big upset.

"These tournaments are a decades-old tradition both for the schools that put them on and the schools that attend them," says Will Huddleston, the team coach. "For most of these middle school-aged students, they are the first opportunity to compete with and see students from other schools."

Students competed in five categories of public speaking: expository speaking, humorous interpretation, dramatic interpretation, oratory, and impromptu speaking.

So congratulations to winners **Lino**



By volunteering at the polls on Election Day, Erika Sarmiento (left) and Karen Valentine helped win four new computers for their school, Immaculate Conception Academy on 24th Street.

**Moser, Terry Smith, Andrew Vega, Alice Chapman, Katharine Swilley, and Allyscia Covina** for leading their 17-member team to victory.

\*\*\*

Congratulations are also in order for students at **Immaculate Conception Academy (ICA)**, who served as poll workers in our November general elec-

tions. Fourteen percent of ICA's eligible seniors worked at the polls, the highest per capita participation among San Francisco secondary schools. For this, the San Francisco Department of Elections awarded the school, located on 24th Street at Fair Oaks, four new HP Vector computers for their library.

"We were kept busy all day at the polling place I was assigned to," says sen-

ior **Therese Deignan**. Her classmate **Karen Valentine** adds, "I was amazed at how carefully many of the voters prepare to cast their ballots and at how much people know about political issues."

\*\*\*

And that's the end of this carefully prepared column. Thanks to everyone who shared their triumphs and opened their hearts. Please keep us busy next month by sending in news of your beautiful babies, graduations, academic honors, engagements, weddings, professional awards, book publishing parties, art show openings, web site launches, amazing pet tricks, extraordinary gardens—even encounters with swarthy PG&E workers.

E-mail leads to [thisnthat@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:thisnthat@noevalleyvoice.com) or mail them to the **Noe Valley Voice**, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114, or leave a phone message at 821-3324. Again, we eagerly await your news. □



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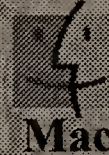
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# The Cost of Living in Noe

## Four Million-Dollar Homes Sold in February

By Corrie M. Anders

There seems to be no way to dampen people's enthusiasm for luxury homes in Noe Valley. Wealthy buyers in February snapped up four single-family properties that cost more than \$1 million each. The most expensive—a home with three bedrooms and 3½ bathrooms in the 500 block of Alvarado Street—cost \$1,470,000.

The quartet of high-end sales is another indication that the local economy is slowly pulling out of the doldrums — and that shoppers are less hesitant to

commit themselves to major purchases. "People are feeling more confident about the economy, and people with higher incomes are feeling more comfortable," said Zephyr Real Estate manager Randall Kostick.

The well-heeled buyers weren't shopping alone. A total of 11 single-family homes closed escrow in February—the same number as in January—at an average price of nearly \$882,000. Buyers on average paid 5 percent more than the seller's asking price.

Home buyers in February also picked up five condominiums, with an average sales price of \$615,300. The most expensive was a \$750,000 condo in the 4300 block of 25th Street.

In February a year ago, buyers pur-

### Noe Valley Rents\*

Apartment Size	Average Rents (Oct. – Dec. 2001)	Average Rents a Year Ago (Oct. – Dec. 2000)	% Increase (+) or Decrease (-)
Studio	\$ 1,137 / mo.	\$ 1,273 / mo.	-10.7%
1 bedroom	1,657 / mo.	1,913 / mo.	-13.4%
2 bedrooms	2,373 / mo.	2,790 / mo.	-14.9%
3 or more bedrooms	2,931 / mo.	4,085 / mo.	-28.2%

\* Data courtesy of Rent Tech, Inc. ([www.renttech.com](http://www.renttech.com)) Note: Rent statistics for the first quarter 2002 will be available next month. NVV #62

chased just seven single-family homes and four condos. That was around the time the nation was entering a mild recession.

There are plenty of buyers these days, said Kostick. Go to virtually any open house on Sundays and "they're swamped.... There are more than 100

people at most open houses," he said.

And homes continue to sell above the asking price because "there still are not enough properties for the number of buyers we've got," Kostick said.

"And one of the reasons we have plenty of buyers is low mortgage rates that are threatening to go up." □

### Noe Valley Home Sales\*

Total Sales		Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price As % of List Price
Single-family homes						
Feb. 02	11	\$525,000	\$1,470,000	\$881,861	42	105%
Jan. 02	11	\$454,000	\$949,000	\$684,090	25	102%
Feb. 01	7	\$475,000	\$1,325,000	\$903,285	27	106%
Condominiums						
Feb. 02	5	\$430,000	\$750,000	\$615,300	49	97%
Jan. 02	3	\$480,000	\$725,000	\$603,333	60	102%
Feb. 01	4	\$504,645	\$1,250,000	\$803,661	29	108%
2 to 4 unit buildings						
Feb. 02	2	\$825,000	\$950,000	\$887,500	28	96%
Jan. 02	3	\$612,000	\$762,500	\$703,166	30	99%
Feb. 01	4	\$567,500	\$2,150,000	\$1,116,875	57	103%

\*Information provided to the Noe Valley Voice courtesy of Zephyr Real Estate ([www.zephyr-re.com](http://www.zephyr-re.com)) and based on all Noe Valley home sales (closings) recorded during month. "Noe Valley" in this survey is defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. NVV #62



Local realtors maintain there are lots of people looking for homes to buy, even in Noe Valley's high-priced market. Photo by Beverly Thorp



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# ARTISTRY

## Double Vision

Two Artists Who Each Have Two Ways of Seeing

By Betsy Bannerman

As a way of celebrating women in the arts, Gallery Sanchez at the Noe Valley Ministry is hosting a show by two local artists, Karen Wenger, a Noe Valley resident, and Pauline Crowther Scott, who lives in nearby Bernal Heights. The two friends met through a group called San Francisco Women Artists (*see sidebar*).

The title of the show, "Double Vision," refers not only to the two artists, but also to the fact that each has two ways of working. Wenger, using charcoal, pastels, watercolors, or oils, switches between a

realistic style and a René Magritte-inspired surrealism. "The surrealist work is closest to my heart," she says.

Scott has been painting acrylics, as well as making fabric wall hangings, since the 1970s. "The contrast is what keeps my clockwork going," she says. She has recently combined the two media to create "fabrications," pieces that are quilted, woven, sewn, glued, and then painted.

Scott grew up in London, where she both attended and taught art classes. After marrying an American and moving to San Francisco in 1980, she worked at Kate Kennedy Children's Center and Edison Children's Center in Noe Valley.

She currently teaches art at Mercy High School, in addition to accepting commissions out of her home studio. "Everyone on my block has one of my cat paintings," she laughs.

Wenger was raised in New York City, came west after college, and has practiced medicine in the Bay Area since 1975. About 10 years ago, her husband bought



"Bereft" (oil on canvas, 1999) is one of Karen Wenger's surrealist paintings on display in "Double Vision," a two-artist show at Gallery Sanchez.

her some pastels at Colorcrane, and while taking her first-ever art class at U.C. Extension, she discovered she loved painting. "No one in my family is artistic," she says. "This just came out of nowhere."

Wenger, 58, is now semi-retired from occupational medicine, and rents a studio in Hunters Point. "I couldn't survive on what I've sold so far," she admits. "It's still pretty new."

Both artists are fascinated with light, space, and illusion. Wenger's surrealist paintings often manipulate time and evolve out of her own dreams and emotions. "What inspires my surrealist work is a strong emotion or something that's been meaningful in my life," she says.

Scott, 53, likes her work to seem spontaneous and accidental. "because that's the way life is. I might do an arrangement of folded towels or explore the way light strikes a cat." During the recent cold spell in San Francisco, she took lots of photographs of clouds and is still deciding how to use the images.

Both women are driven to pursue their art. "I paint mostly because I just have to—it's part of me," Scott says. "I get terrific delight from the physical act of painting." She says it's often hard to make time for art, but she continues to go after "the perfect painting."

Wenger adds, "I have to do my art because it's expressive...and it makes me feel productive—but in a joyous way, which is very different from what medicine gave me. It just puts my brain in a completely different place."

A reception for "Double Vision" will take place Saturday, April 13, from 1 to 4 p.m., in the sanctuary of the Noe Valley Ministry at 1021 Sanchez Street. The show began March 31 and will continue through May 16. For more information on the artists, call 550-1213 (Karen Wenger) or 826-1895 (Pauline Crowther Scott). □



Pauline Crowther Scott has a collection of costumed dolls, which often turn up in her paintings. Shown here is "Dolls in Unfolding Drama" (acrylics, 1998).

### Women Artists United

Pauline Crowther Scott and Karen Wenger have both been members of San Francisco Women Artists, a group that provides a venue for artists to get together socially, to learn more about art through workshops and guest speakers, and to show and sell their art in galleries.

Founded in the 1890s as "The Sketch Club," SFWA has been renting a space in Hayes Valley since the 1980s, but recently lost its lease due to a hefty rent hike. The group sponsored a monthly juried show for select members, and once a year put on a show at a larger space like SomArts, to which all the artists could contribute.

"It's almost impossible to get into a gallery in San Francisco," says Pauline Crowther Scott, currently co-chair of the Artists Council of SFWA. "so it's sad that we lost our spot. But we're hoping to find new premises soon."

Meanwhile, San Francisco Women Artists is continuing to organize shows at various other locations. If you have a space to suggest or need information about membership, call Scott at 826-1895.

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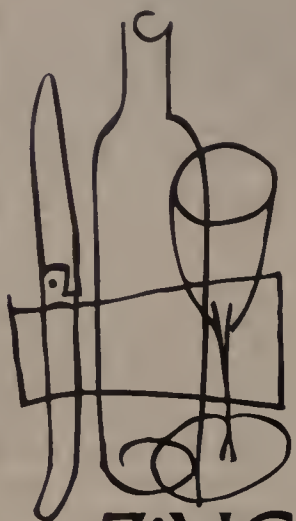
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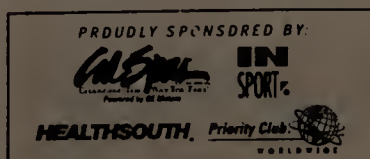
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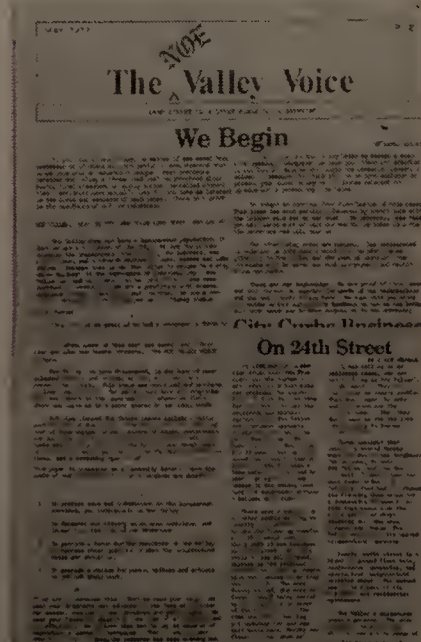


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"There's no deadline per se," says Alison Horton Eastwood, the organization's Noe Valley representative. "I have so far completed forms for five properties, so we need to get the word out to get the remaining 35. It has been fun for me so far. I am meeting neighbors and improving the environment."

To get in on the action, call Eastwood at 285-2316 or e-mail her at [HortonEastwood@yahoo.com](mailto:HortonEastwood@yahoo.com).

### Town Hall on Breast Cancer

To spur research into the causes, treatment, and prevention of breast cancer, the fiesty Breast Cancer Action will hold a town hall meeting on Saturday, April 20, from noon to 5 p.m. at the San Francisco Women's Building.

Titled "Beyond the Pink Ribbon: Challenging the Culture of Breast Cancer" and co-sponsored by such groups as Strike Out Breast Cancer, KPFA Radio, and *Mother Jones* magazine, the event will also offer a chance to "learn how mainstream culture has co-opted the breast cancer movement—and how you can get involved in helping to end the breast cancer epidemic," say the organizers.

The keynote speaker will be author and social critic Barbara Ehrenreich (whom many know from her book *Nickel and Dimed: Surviving in Low-Wage America*). Ehrenreich's essay "Welcome to Cancerland: A Mammogram Leads to a Cult of Pink Kitsch" appeared in the November 2001 issue of *Harper's* magazine and can be downloaded at the Breast Cancer Action web site: [www.bcaction.org](http://www.bcaction.org).

Mistress of ceremonies will be Anne LaMott. A Marin County author of five novels and three bestselling nonfiction books, as well as a columnist for *Salon*

magazine, LaMott is known for her wit and self-effacing humor. Composer/musician Adrienne Torf, who has played with such stars as Holly Near, Ferron, and Cris Williamson, also will liven up the event.

The Women's Building is at 3543 18th Street, near Laidge. Suggested minimum donation at the door is \$10. For further information, call 355-9988 or e-mail [bcatownmeeting@hotmail.com](mailto:bcatownmeeting@hotmail.com).

### Classical in a Classic Place

A new music series, the Second Sundays Series, began in October at Holy Innocents Episcopal Church on Fair Oaks Street. It presents monthly, live classical music concerts to the public.

"We wanted to create a concert series of great local performers to take advantage of the acoustics at Holy Innocents Church. It's an exceptional space for live music, especially for chamber music," says Jess Perry, who, along with co-producer Katherine McKee, helps select the artists for the series.

The April 14 concert will feature Emil Miland, a cellist with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra. Guest artists will include Bryndon Hassman on piano, Carey Bell on clarinet, and Dawn Harms on violin. The program will feature works by Bridge, Kodaly, and Brahms.

On May 12, the Schola Cantorum of Holy Innocents Church will present its 10th-anniversary jubilee concert.

Concerts begin at 5 p.m., and last about an hour and a half. There are no advance tickets; a \$15 donation is requested at the door (free childcare is provided).

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### Motion for the Masses

National Dance Week is April 26 through May 5, and Rhythm and Motion Dance Center wants us to celebrate by sliding on down to its Mission Street studio on Sunday, April 28, from 3 to 7 p.m.

Rhythm and Motion offers more than 100 classes each week for children, teens, and adults. They're held at the studio and in nearby Glen Park, Bernal Heights, and the Castro. "Everyone should come to the open house—to dance, to play, to become stronger, to watch, to eat, to meet people in our incredibly diverse community. This is the perfect opportunity to try something you've never tried before," says Consuelo Faust, who founded Rhythm and Motion in 1979.

Free sample classes for adults are

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25



Consuelo Faust, director of Rhythm and Motion Dance Center, will teach a free class in exercise workout techniques at a studio open house on April 28. Photo by Steve Burns

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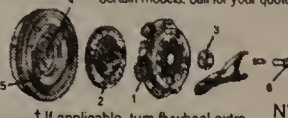
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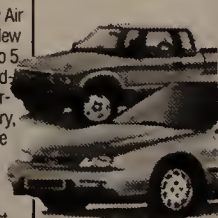
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## BART to Unveil 30th Street Station Study

By Karen Topakian

Would it be practical to build a new underground BART station at 30th and Mission streets? That is the question the Bay Area Rapid Transit system has been trying to answer for the past year and a half.

BART is now ready to present the findings of its 30th Street/Mission Station Feasibility Study and to get feedback from the public at a community meeting on Thursday, April 11, 6:30 p.m., at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, 515 Cortland Avenue.

The study, funded through a \$400,000 grant secured by BART Director Tom Radulovich and California Assemblywoman Carole Migden, allowed BART to hire engineers to assess the costs of construction and operation of a new station at that site. Transit planners also looked at the impact a new stop would have on service throughout the system.

BART has previously co-hosted two community meetings at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center on the 30th Street station idea. At the first meeting in November 2000, BART staff described the project and asked residents and merchants to help narrow down the options for review. At a second meeting, held last October, BART outlined several possible station configurations and explained why some might have "fatal flaws." The planners then presented two alternatives, which were to be further evaluated for construction, operation, and maintenance costs.

The upcoming April meeting is the third and last in the process of incorporating all the concerns of residents living in the Mission, Noe Valley, Bernal Heights, and Fairmount neighborhoods.

Peter Albert, manager of BART planning for San Francisco and the West Bay, says he hopes to have the study in hand at the April meeting, but at a minimum he will provide an executive summary for the people in attendance.

"We've done our part as a planning

agency," says Albert. However, many hurdles remain before a station can be built. He points out that one of the criteria for establishing a new BART station is showing ample ridership within walking distance of the stop.

"The next step in developing this idea would be some intensive planning with the community. The city would have to co-lead any planning process if it is serious about the station, because the decisions about land use, housing, transit access, and traffic in the surrounding area are out of BART's jurisdiction," Albert says. "The city would also have to help find the money to pay for that planning process."

Albert notes that one of the primary incentives for studying the new station was the distance between the 24th Street and Glen Park stations, which is the longest between any two BART stations in San Francisco. BART opened the last San Francisco station at the Embarcadero in 1976.

In other BART news, Albert reports that the southwest plaza at 16th Street is 50 percent complete, with a scheduled completion date of late summer 2002.

As for the 24th Street Station, which is closest to Noe Valley, BART is planning to hold community meetings this spring to discuss implementing the recommendations in the 24th Street BART Plaza Community Design Plan published last summer. This redesign is intended to make the 24th Street plaza function better as open space and provide better access to the station for bus users, pedestrians, and bicycle riders, Albert says.

Meanwhile, local residents, BART and city staff, the San Francisco Public Library, and representatives of the owner of the Diamond Super property in Glen Park Village have been meeting with Supervisor Mark Leno's office to address a variety of issues, including rebuilding the supermarket, building a new neighborhood branch library, finding locations for City Car Share vehicles, and improving access to and from the Glen Park BART Station.

To give BART your input, get on a mailing list, or receive more information on any of these projects, call BART planner Peter Albert at 510-287-4702. □

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# SHORT TAKES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

scheduled throughout the event. They include Afro-Cuban dance with Jose Barroso, a self-defense class with James Hundon, yoga with Paul Sullivan, contact improvisation with Sean Seward, and exercise dance workouts with Faust and Stephanie Forster. Sample classes for children include capoeira with Adeofun and hip-hop with Jessica Wolf. There will also be chances to sign up for regular classes on a first come, first served basis.

Rhythm and Motion's studio is at 1133 Mission Street between Seventh and Eighth streets. For more info, call 621-0643, or visit [www.rhythmandmotion.com](http://www.rhythmandmotion.com).

## Glen Park Festival

Are you in the mood for a free outdoor festival, especially one that benefits a summer day camp favored by children in Noe Valley for generations? If so, buy some fresh sunscreen and mark your calendar for April 28, the day when the Glen Park Festival takes over downtown Glen Park. To make way for the revelry, festival organizers will close off Wilder Street, and Diamond Street from Chenery to Bosworth streets.

Setting up shop on the sidewalk from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. will be more than 30 artists and crafts vendors from all over California. Restaurants such as Chenery Park, Alma, Destination Bakery, and Tiger's will have booths as well. Entertainment will include the Randy Craig Jazz Quartet from 10 to 11:30 a.m.; Mes-tizo, a Latin rock band, from noon to 2 p.m.; and London Street Project, an R&B group, from 2:30 to 4 p.m.

There will also be a raffle, free fire hats and lollipops, and a fire truck manned by members of the San Francisco Fire Department. Proceeds from the event will go toward scholarships for disadvantaged youth to Silver Tree Day Camp, located in Glen Park Canyon.

For more information, call the festival hotline at 835-2112 or check out the web site: [www.glenparkfestival.com](http://www.glenparkfestival.com).

## Join the Write Crowd

The Writing Salon has provided instruction for writers and aspiring writers in Noe Valley, Bernal Heights, Glen Park, and the Mission since 1999. And if you're one of those (or not), you are cordially invited to an open house, potluck, and reading on Saturday, April 6, from 6 to 10 p.m.

"I started the Writing Salon mainly because I'm a writer who loves to write and who also loves to teach," says Jane Underwood, the Writing Salon's founder and owner. "But something else also happened, something that I didn't fully anticipate. [The Salon] created a sense of community, and it continues to grow."

Among the readers at the event will be several of the Salon's teachers, including Alan Kaufman (who teaches a memoir class), Michelle Richmond (fiction), Lisa Alp (travel writing), Marcy Sheiner (overcoming writing blocks), Suzy Parker (personal essays), Suzanne Weiner (poetry), and Hank Hyena (comic monologues).

Students will be reading from their work as well. "There will be equal amounts of time for eating and schmoozing," says Underwood, "so bring something yummy to eat or drink, and hang out for as long or as short a time as you'd like."

The Writing Salon is located at 673 Moultrie Street in Bernal Heights. For further information, call 642-9793 or go to [www.writingsalons.com](http://www.writingsalons.com).

## Apples and Oranges, Not

1977. Twenty-five years ago. Were you here when Harvey Milk became our city's first openly gay supervisor, when 125,000 people thronged to San Francisco to attend the gay pride parade, when right-wingers vilified the gay rights movement, and gays and lesbians formed such groups as the Butterfly Brigade to put an end to attacks on non-heterosexual people?

For those of us who lived through those days, and for those who are simply interested in a vibrant part of our city's history, the "Butterflies and Oranges" show organized by the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society is a must-see.

It's chock full of photographs, fliers, T-shirts with slogans such as "Anita dear, cram it," and other memorabilia, much of which had been boxed up in the garages of people who were involved in the early days of the gay rights movement.

The show runs through May 15 at the new GLPT Historical Society, 973 Market Street, Tuesday through Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m. It is running simultaneously at the San Francisco Public Library's main branch (100 Larkin Street) during regular library hours. For more information, call 777-5455.

## Riley Is Really Coming

Heads up, postmodern neighbors! Renowned avant-garde composer and pianist Terry Riley is doing a benefit performance at the Noe Valley Ministry on Sunday, April 7. Produced jointly by Noe Valley Chamber Music and the Noe Valley Music Series, the concert will help pay off the Ministry's Steinway grand piano and also pay for installation of a new sound system recently donated to the church by the Good Sound Foundation.

"Terry Riley is a major figure in contemporary music, and the opportunity to hear him in person shouldn't be missed. He's the father of minimalism, and many composers are influenced by him," says Karen Heather, artistic director of Noe Valley Chamber Music. "When I say the name Terry Riley," she continues, "people say 'Is he really going to be there?' It is phenomenal that he's willing to do this benefit for us; we feel very privileged."

Riley plans to open the concert he has dubbed "Night and Day Dreams" with standards, and then follow with some pieces he calls "un-premeditated." His son Gyan, a guitarist, will join his father on stage for one set. The show starts at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$25, and reservations are highly recommended. To save your place, call 648-5236. The Ministry is located at 1021 Sanchez Street.

## Party Time for Book Lovers

It's been three years since Cover to Cover moved to its spacious new quarters near Church Street, and the bookstore is throwing a party to mark the occasion on Sunday, April 14.

"We're going to try to have things going all day long, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.," says co-owner Tracy Wynne. "But the biggest part will be from 2 to 4 p.m."

Neighborhood devotees of the store have offered their services to help make the party a success. Plans include juggling, balloon hats, and cookies and cake.

"It's going to be lighthearted and fun," says Wynne. "We're just happy to be celebrating another year in Noe Valley. We're very proud to be part of this community."

Cover to Cover is located at 3812 24th Street. For further information, or to volunteer your clown, magician, or other creative talents, call 282-8080.

*This month's Short Takes were written by Laura McHale Holland.*



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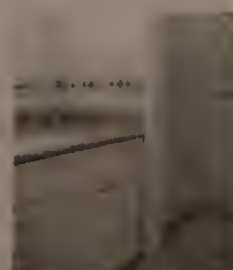
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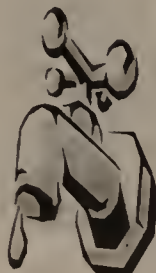
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# APRIL 2002

**NOW:** The 30th Street Senior Center needs VOLUNTEERS to make patchwork blankets for abused and neglected women and children. Mon. and Fri., 1–4 pm. 225 30th St. 550-2210.

**MARCH 31–MAY 16:** An ART SHOW, "Double Vision," features the works of Karen Wenger and Pauline Crowther Scott. Reception Sat., April 13, 1–4 pm. Gallery Sanchez, Noe Valley Ministry Sanctuary, 1021 Sanchez St. 550-1213 or 826-1895.

**APRIL 1–30:** LIVING T'AI CHI of Noe Valley offers classes including meditation and Qigong, taught by Chris Sequeira. Mon. and Tues., 6–7:30 pm at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., and Wed. and Fri., 10:15 am–noon at Douglass Park. 773-8185 or 650-756-6857.

**APRIL 1–MAY 6:** PHOTOGRAPHERS Pernilla Persson and Mack McFarland exhibit their images, and Carl Dielh offers live kinetic video engineering at Noe Art Space, 3901 23rd St. 824-2553.

**APRIL 1–MAY 6:** Noe Valley artist CAROL KERNER exhibits her neighborhood landscapes at MikeyTom Market. Mon.–Sat., 7 am–9 pm; Sun., 8 am–8 pm. 1747 Church St. 641-5290.

**APRIL 2, 9 & 16:** Preschool STORY TIME, a read-aloud program for children ages 3 to 5, begins at 10 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**APRIL 2–30:** Empty Hands MARTIAL ARTS Studio offers classes for children 6 to 14. Tues., 4:30–5:30 pm, and Wed., 5–6 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 824-6063.

**APRIL 3–24:** The WORLD HARMONY CHORUS seeks singers of all ages to learn a varied choral repertoire. Wednesdays, 6:15–8 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 510-547-8980.

**APRIL 3–24:** A FELDENKRAIS movement class, led by Leigh Sealy and Barbara Wright, meets Wednesdays from 8 to 9 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 759-5934 or 337-6276.

**APRIL 4:** Norman Solomon leads a panel discussion, "Connecting the Dots: The Independent Press and the ENRON SCANDAL." 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

**APRIL 5–28:** The Class Act Theater performs *Mr. Williams Pays a Call*, five rarely-seen one-act plays by Tennessee Williams, including *Talk to Me Like the Rain*, *The Lady of Larkspur Lotion*, *The Unsatisfactory Supper*, *I Can't Imagine Tomorrow*, and *A Perfect Analysis Given by a Parrot*. Fri. and Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 5 pm. Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro St. 364-3037.

**APRIL 6:** The annual meeting of Parents for Public Schools discusses ways to change and improve S.F. schools in 2002–03. 8:30 am–12:30 pm. Monroe Elementary School, 260 Madrid St. Call 468-7077 to reserve childcare.

**APRIL 6:** Neighborhood historian Richard Brandi shows slides and discusses the HISTORY of West Portal. 2 pm. West Portal Branch Library, 190 Lenox Way. 753-7135.

**APRIL 6:** The WRITING SALON's open house, potluck, and reading runs from 6 to 10 pm. 673 Moultrie St. 642-9793.

**APRIL 6:** TANGO No. 9 quartet performs "Historical Tango Trip" with tango dancers and singers. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley MUSIC SERIES at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

**APRIL 7:** POETS Jack Hirschman, Louise Nayer, and Carol Tarlen read, followed by a jazz jam session. 4:30–8 pm. Bird and Beckett Books and Records, 2788 Diamond St. 586-3733.



The Class Act Theater gleefully takes on Tennessee Williams in *Mr. Williams Pays a Call*, five one-act plays showing April 5–28 at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House.

**APRIL 7:** Avant-garde composer and pianist TERRY RILEY performs a benefit concert for Noe Valley Chamber Music and the Noe Valley Music Series. 7 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

**APRIL 7:** Jamaican singer/songwriter EARL ZERO performs at 9 pm at the Elbo Room. 647 Valencia St. 252-9397.



**APRIL 8–MAY 2:** Noe Valley residents Warren Agee and Carol Henry are among the exhibitors in "Night Songs," NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHS by Tim Baskerville's U.C. Berkeley Extension class. Mon.–Fri., 8 am–9 pm; Sat. and Sun., 8 am–3 pm; reception Thurs. April 11, 6–8 pm. The Galleria, 55 Laguna St. 252-5221.

**APRIL 9:** RUTHANNE LUM McCUNN reads from her work, including *Wooden Fish Songs* and *Moon Pearl*. 7:30 pm. USF Lone Mountain, 2800 Turk Blvd., Room 141. 422-6066.

**APRIL 10:** Tracy Beckerley-Taguchi gives sample readings in an introduction to a TAROT class at the Scarlet Sage Herb Co. 7–9 pm. 1173 Valencia St. 821-0997.

**APRIL 11:** Jay Wifgot discusses the biodiversity of Sonora at the meeting of the Golden Gate AUDOBON SOCIETY. 7 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

**APRIL 11:** BART planners will present the results of a yearlong study on the cost and feasibility of building a new station at 30th and Mission streets. 6:30 pm. Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, 515 Cortland Ave. 510-287-4702.

**APRIL 12:** VINCE PETERSON performs a concert at St. Philip's Church at 8 pm. 725 Diamond St. 282-0141.

**APRIL 12:** Gerard Jones introduces his new book, *Killing Monsters: Why Children Need Fantasy Games, Superheroes, and Make-Believe Violence*, at 7 pm. Cover to Cover Books, 3812 24th St. 282-8080.

**APRIL 13:** Friends of Glen Canyon Park sponsor a SPRING FLOWER WALK in Glen Canyon Park. 10 am–noon. Meet at the picnic tables behind the Rec Center at Elk and Chenery. 584-8576.

**APRIL 13:** The San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners (SLUG) holds a free "HARDSCAPING Your Garden with Recycled Materials" workshop. 10 am–1 pm. Garden for the Environment, 7th Ave. at Lawton. 285-7584.

**APRIL 13:** WRITERS WITH DRINKS presents readings by Kirk Read, Dana Cory, Candice Hern, Simon Sheppard, and Rudy Ruckner. 6–8 pm. Café du Nord, 2170 Market St. 861-5016.

**APRIL 13 & 20:** Artist LEE WALTON's "Master Class I and II" at the Sunnyside Conservatory is a workshop conducted by the Bureau of Urban Secrets. Noon–3 pm. 236 Monterey Blvd. 282-4334.

**APRIL 14:** Learn to make DREAM HERB pouches at a workshop in the "Colors, Candles, and Stones" series by energy therapist Sue Loyd and Janice from Eye of the Day. Noon–2 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 386-1452.

**APRIL 14:** Come celebrate COVER TO COVER's third anniversary on Church Street, with a party featuring jugglers, balloons, cookies, and other surprises. 2–4 pm. 3812 24th St. 282-8080.

**APRIL 14:** The Nagano-Reiss-Hersh PIANO TRIO and guest violinists perform music by Dvorak, Schumann, and Ives. 4 pm. Noe Valley Chamber Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 648-5236.

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# CALENDAR



**APRIL 14:** Cellist Emil Miland, along with guest musicians Bryndon Hassman, Carey Bell, and Dawn Harms, performs works by Bridge, Kodaly, and Brahms at the **SECOND SUNDAY SERIES** of classical concerts at Holy Innocents Episcopal Church. 5 pm. 455 Fair Oaks St. 776-7538.

**APRIL 15:** TAXES are due! The SPCA tries to "Take the Bite Out of Tax Day" with adoptable cats and dogs to hug at the Rincon Annex Post Office. 11 am–1 pm. Stuart Street entrance. 554-3000.

**APRIL 16:** This is the registration deadline for the SPCA's **SUMMER CAMP 2000**, one-week sessions for children ages 7 to 15 who want to learn about working with animals. For information call 554-3000.

**APRIL 16:** Stacey Karp from California Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League and Lori Nairne from the International Wages for Housework Campaign lead a discussion at the **GRAY PANTHERS** monthly meeting. 1–3 pm. Unitarian Universalist Center, 1187 Franklin St. 552-8800.

**APRIL 16:** Friends and students of **DIANE DI PRIMA** read from their work. 7:30 pm. Bird and Beckett Books and Records, 2788 Diamond St. 586-3733.

**APRIL 17:** **SUSAN PARKER** discusses her upcoming memoir, *Tumbling After*, in *Zyzyva's* "Amazing Women" series. 4:30 pm. Main Library, Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room, 100 Larkin St. 557-4400.

**APRIL 18:** Noe Valley author **CARA BLACK** will sign her latest Aimée Leduc mystery, *Murder in the Sentier*, at a book party at Cover to Cover Booksellers. 7 pm. 3812 24th St. 282-8080.

**APRIL 17:** The Noe Valley **DEMOCRATIC CLUB** meets at 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 285-6043.

**APRIL 19:** The **BELLA COSI QUARTET** performs music by Shostakovich. 8 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

**APRIL 19–21:** "Be Holy for I Am Holy: Creative Expressions from Within" features **WORKSHOPS**, worship, and Klezmer dance for all ages. Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St. Call 861-6932 for registration.

**APRIL 20:** **EARTH DAY** Plant Restoration in Glen Canyon Park with the Friends of Glen Canyon Park needs workers from 9 am–noon. Meet at the picnic tables behind the Rec Center at Elk and Chenery. 584-8576.

**APRIL 20:** Seann Xenja discusses "FENG SHUI for the Home," in a free seminar sponsored by Zephyr Real Estate. 10 am–noon. Contract Design Center, 600 Townsend St. Call 905-0255, ext. 230, for reservations.

**APRIL 20:** "Beyond the Pink Ribbon: Challenging the Culture of **BREAST CANCER**," a town meeting organized by Breast Cancer Action, features emcee Anne Lamott and keynote speaker Barbara Ehrenreich. Noon–5 pm. Women's Building, 3543 18th St. 355-9988.

**APRIL 20:** The **BOX SET DUO** performs a concert at 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

**APRIL 21:** David Armstrong leads a **BIRD WALK** in Glen Canyon Park, sponsored by the Friends of Glen Canyon Park. 9 am. Meet at the picnic tables behind the Rec Center at Elk and Chenery. 584-8576.

**APRIL 21:** The Nagano-Reiss-Hersh **PIANO TRIO** perform the Ravel Piano Trio and the Schumann Piano Quintet, with a special guest. 4 pm. Noe Valley Chamber Music at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.



Tango No. 9 performs a concert with authentic tango dancers and singers at the Noe Valley Ministry Saturday, April 6.

**APRIL 21:** The New Providence Baptist Church and St. Philip's Choir and Children's Choir perform a **CONCERT**. 4 pm. St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond St. 282-0141.

**APRIL 23:** Rebecca Nile, the **BUBBLE LADY**, introduces the Bubble Family to preschoolers and their families. 10 and 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**APRIL 24:** Sarah Holmes describes "Eight **HERBS** You Must Know" and their uses in health care. 7–9 pm. Scarlet Sage Herb Co., 1173 Valencia St. 821-0997.

**APRIL 24:** **POETS** Genny Lim and Louise Nayer read from their work at 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

**APRIL 25:** **HISTORIAN** and tour guide Gary Holloway discusses the "Mission Era to the Gold Rush" at the monthly meeting of the S.F. History Association. 7 pm. Mission Dolores School Auditorium, 16th and Church, 750-9986.

**APRIL 25:** **UPPER NOE NEIGHBORS'** monthly meeting begins at 7:30 pm. Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day and Sanchez. 285-0473.

**APRIL 25–28:** **PuppetLove!** Festival of **RADICAL PUPPETRY** features marionettes, blacklight theater, humanettes, shadow puppetry, giant puppet pageantry, and a puppet slam. Cell-space, 2050 Bryant St. Call 905-5958 for a schedule of events.

**APRIL 26:** Singer/songwriters Charlie King and Karen Brandow perform at Noe Valley Music. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

**APRIL 27:** A **GARAGE SALE** held by the S.F. Mothers of Twins Club should have twice as many bargains. 9 am–3 pm. St. John of God Church, 5th Ave. at Irving. 485-5036.

**APRIL 27:** President of Senior PAC Bernie Rush discusses political action committees for midlife and senior women at the meeting of the Older Women's League (OWL). 10:30 am–12:15 pm. Call 989-4422 for location.

**APRIL 27:** Great **GUITAR NIGHT** at the Noe Valley Music Series features performances by Jim Canpilongo, Leni Stern, Will Bernard, and Adam Levy. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

## Yes, You May

send us your May calendar items. A perky new May issue will be distributed in Noe Valley on or before May 3, 2002. Please make sure we hear about your event by **April 15**. Our address is *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Or we invite you to e-mail [zabarska@aol.com](mailto:zabarska@aol.com).

**APRIL 28:** The sixth annual **GLEN PARK FESTIVAL** features live music, arts and crafts for sale, and refreshments, to benefit the Glen Park Silver Tree Summer Day Camp. 10 am–5 pm. Diamond Street between Chenery and Bosworth. 835-2112

**APRIL 28:** A vegetarian cooking class offers simple and tasty **YOGIC RECIPES**. 11 am–2 pm. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 821-1117.

**APRIL 28:** The **OPEN HOUSE DANCE-IN** at Rhythm and Motion Dance Center features free classes for kids and adults, including capoeira, Afro-Cuban, and self-defense. 3–7 pm. 1133 Mission St. Call 621-0643 for a schedule.

**APRIL 28:** Students from the S.F. Conservatory of Music perform a 7 pm **CONCERT** at St. Philip's Church. 725 Diamond St. 282-0141.

**APRIL 30:** **FILMS** for preschoolers age 3 to 5 include *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, *Monty*, and *Good Night, Gorilla*. 10 and 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

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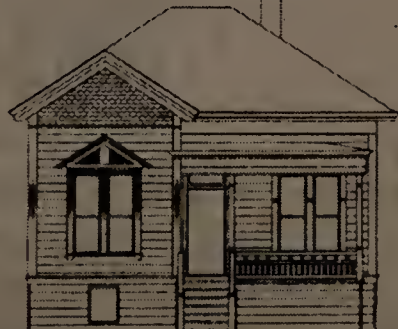
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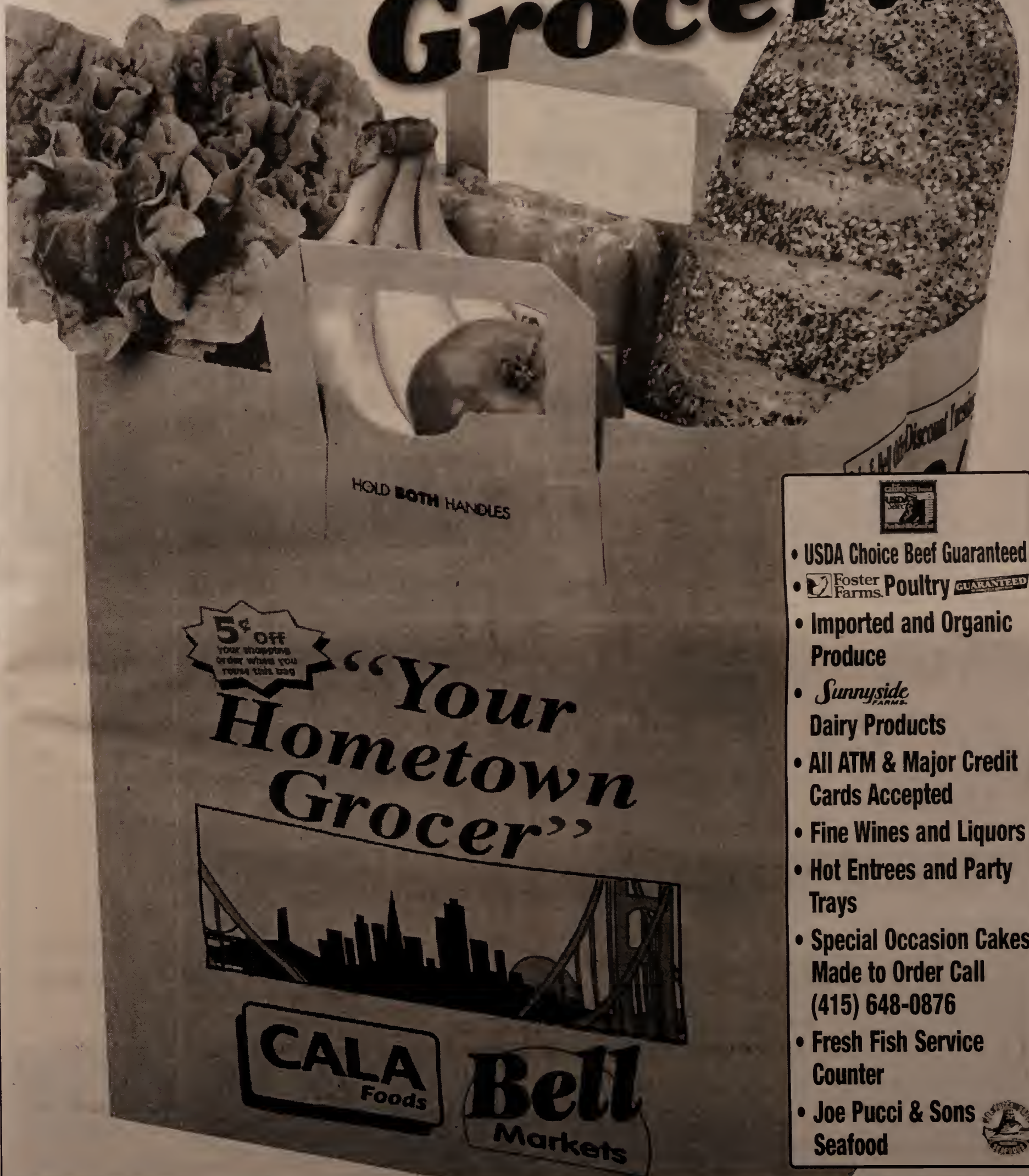
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We look forward to moving back to San Francisco in the future, and having you sell us our next home!

Kindest regards, Lauren, Tats, Akio and Masao Kawasaki

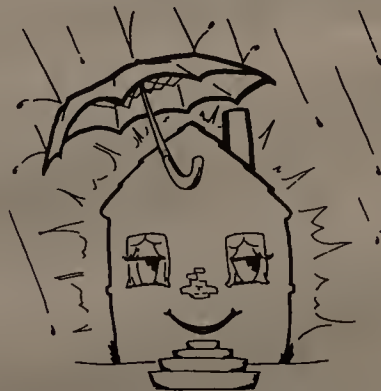
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## The Five and Dime Crime

A few weeks ago, I was rummaging through my drawers of treasured keepsakes when a glittering item caught my eye. As I picked up the small gold ring, a flood of memories took me back to the early 1920s, when my family moved to California. Upon our arrival, we were astounded by the wealth of merchandise on display in the many retail stores in San Francisco. Back on our potato farm in Idaho, our only glimpse of worldly goods had come from the pages of a mail-order catalog.



In the '20s and '30s, even in thriving San Francisco, a job was hard to find, and wages were low. Still, my father, who was a trained woodworker, found a job as a carpenter, earning a dollar a day for his family of five. My mother shopped carefully, providing us with all the necessities, but allowing her children no frivolities.

We often shopped at one of the huge five-and-ten-cent stores located on Market or Mission Street. (This was before 24th Street had its share of small variety stores, like Meyer's and Glen Five and Ten.) The dime store giants in the '20s were the Kress, Newberry, and Woolworth chain stores. By the end of the 1990s, all three had left the city.

But in those days, the stores were young, growing enterprises full of vitality. They were joyful places to visit, crowded with eager shoppers and excited children. The girls behind the counter, appropriately enough, were all young, pretty, and smiling—and happy to have a job. A lady played popular

songs on the piano from morning until closing time. Behind her on the wall were racks of sheet music, suggesting that all you needed to do was purchase and practice and you too could play the piano as well as she. The music reflected the times, of course. Some of it was sad, like "Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?" or "Cottage for Sale," but there were happy songs too, like "I Found a Million-Dollar Baby in the Five and Ten Cent Store."

Newberry's—where glitter and glamour could always be had for less than a dime—was my favorite place. There were so many tempting things on display, and the trinkets were so inexpensive, my brothers and I wanted everything we saw. More often than not, however, our parents refused our requests.

There is one day that stands out in my memory, mostly because of the frustration and embarrassment I suffered. My father had just said no to my 8-year-old brother, and my mother was saying "Not today" to my little brother, when I spotted the most amazing ring a 6-year-old had ever laid eyes upon. I thought about asking my parents to buy me the ring, but knew from my brothers' experience that the attempt would be futile. The ring looked so beautiful there—with its shiny "gold" band (it was brass) set with a red (glass) stone—that I couldn't resist slipping it onto my finger. I got so busy looking around the store that I neglected to take it off and return it to its place on the counter.

Instead, I slipped the hand with the ring into my pocket and wore it home.

It was late that night when my mother noticed the red and gold sparkle on my finger, and after a few pointed questions, the truth came out: I had stolen the ring. My mother then kindly but firmly told me that in the morning we would go back to the store, where I would return the ring and apologize to the manager.

Such a confession loomed so humilatingly before me that I walked slowly to the rear of our Chattanooga Street flat and stood on the back porch, gazing gloomily over the tangled weeds in the backyard. For a short time I considered jumping off the porch to end it all (actually, it was only a few feet down!). Instead, I removed the by-now hated ring from my finger and threw it as far as I could, out into the overgrowth and out of my life.

Witnessing the event from the kitchen, my mother decided I had suffered enough. The next day, she made no mention of my punishment. Nor did she bring up the incident again. She was confident that any trace of thievery in my nature had been crushed forever.

A few years later, our neighbor's 8-year-old nephew Mac, who lived in Florida, was visiting his hard-working, law-abiding aunt and uncle in San Francisco. During the day, Mac was free to explore the city's neighborhoods.

One day, he decided to visit a grocery store on Monterey Boulevard, with many

desirable items on display. While loitering near the candy counter, he spotted a pack of chewing gum—mouthwatering and within reach. He wanted it badly, so he slipped his hand over the gum and moved it off the counter into his pants pocket. Then he sauntered toward the door to make his exit.

Suddenly, he felt the hand of the store manager collaring him from behind. A police officer arrived, Mac was searched, and the incriminating chewing gum was held up before Mac's woeful face. In a faltering voice he uttered his defense: "It must have fallen into my pocket."

The officer didn't buy that, and escorted him home to relate the criminal act to his aunt. When his stevedore uncle came home from work, Mac received a stern appraisal of his behavior, which I'm sure he remembered for the rest of his life.

He soon went back to Florida, perhaps with a permanent aversion to chewing gum.

As for me and my early criminal tendencies, my mother's plan was to keep me under observation. After a couple of years had passed under her watchful eye and there were no further signs of sticky fingers, she decided to give me a present—a ring like the one I had coveted at Newberry's. On my eighth birthday, I received a January birthstone, a deep-red garnet, set in an ornate band of gold. It was beautiful and I was pleased, but at the same time it brought back my terrible shame. The memory was so strong, I only wore the ring on special occasions, then finally not at all.

What is interesting is that for most of my adult life I have remained reluctant to wear rings, except for my wedding band, of course. So, when I came across my garnet in the drawer last month, I thought: After 77 years of good behavior, certainly I should be able to wear this ring without any lingering guilt. Unfortunately, I will never be able to put it to the test, because the tiny ring will not fit over the old joints of even my little finger!

Ah well, the ring taught me a vital lesson. There's a song—I can't exactly recall who sang it—that sums it up nicely: "You can't always get what you want. But if you try sometimes you might get what you need." □



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Photo by Pamela Gerard

## SCHOOL REPORT

### Good News from James Lick Middle School!

**Congratulations** to the outstanding team of poets and orators who represented the school in last month's contest at Marshall High! Dash Corvin-Britten and Travis Gardner brought home trophies; Dash and Antonio Ayala were invited to perform on KMEL's "Street Soldier" radio show. Tune in to hear them at 8 p.m. April 7.

March activities at James Lick featured portfolio conferences on March 18 and 19. Students presented examples of their best academic work during the parent-teacher-student meetings. They also displayed their performing skills at the school's annual Talent Show on March 20. The Gear Up Parent Institute continued with workshops offered in both Spanish and English.

Academic testing in April focuses on the STAR 9 tests in math, reading, language, and writing. On a lighter note, students and their families are revving up their dance and percussion skills in preparation for James Lick Middle School's entry in the annual San Francisco Carnaval Parade on May 26.

**Thank you, Noe Valley:** Our generous neighbors donated the ping-pong equipment we asked for last month, and our pool of volunteers is increasing.

#### You can help, too! We still need:

- A working refrigerator for the teachers' lunchroom
- Musical instruments for the free afterschool instruction program
- Afterschool homework assistance (Mon.–Thurs., 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.)
- Tutors and mentors for afterschool activity programs
- Former James Lick students who have photos, old yearbooks, memories, or stories to share for a new school history project

Volunteers are always needed...and welcome. Join us!

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Ms. Susan Cattoche    Ms. Janice Daniels  
Volunteer                      Principal

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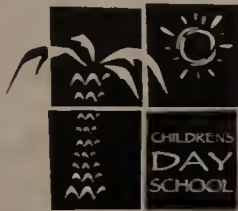
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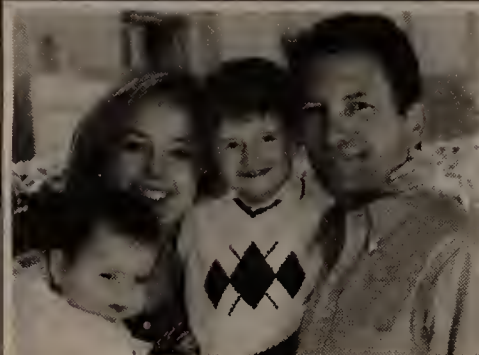
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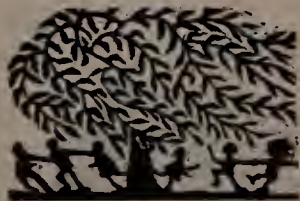
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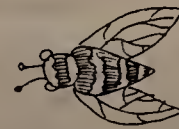
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## FAMILY ADVENTURES

## ARE WE THERE YET?

CLOSE TO HOME

## Wild Kingdom

## Hiking the Tomales Point Trail

By Janis Cooke Newman

**Y***ou are entering an area of confirmed mountain lion sightings,*" I read from a sign at the Tomales Point trailhead. Above these words is a drawing of a mountain lion with sharp-looking teeth.

"I've hiked out here a million times," says my husband, "and I've never seen a mountain lion."

"Do not let children hike alone," I read from the sign.

"Don't worry," says my 7-year-old son Alex. "I brought Excalibur." Excalibur is a three-inch replica of King Arthur's sword.

"Still, try to stay close to us," I tell him.

It's an early spring day, and we've driven out to the end of Pierce Point Road in the Point Reyes National Seashore to hike the Tomales Point Trail. This trail, which winds its way for close to five miles along a spit of land between Tomales Bay and the Pacific Ocean, is the best place for spotting Tule elk. Now I'm wondering if it isn't also a pretty good spot for turning into a mountain lion snack.

Before heading out on the trail, we take the time to wander among the white clapboard buildings of the old Pierce Point Ranch, a dairy farm that once supplied butter to the Alice Waters and Reed Herons of late-1800s San Francisco. Alex and I peek into the one-room schoolhouse, where the children who lived on the ranch, as well as the children of local fishermen, were taught by a teacher ferried up from San Francisco. We walk through the dim light of a big barn, listening to the rustling of birds or maybe bats in the eaves above our heads.

"Hey, look what I found!" my husband shouts from outside the barn.

"A mountain lion?" asks Alex, digging around in his backpack for Excalibur.

"Not quite," says my husband. Crawling up his arm is a black newt with an orange belly.

We take turns letting the newt tickle our palms with his rubbery toes before returning him to the grass. Then we start hiking.

The hills are an eye-piercing green from the winter rain, and in every sunny spot there are circles of purple iris, too frilly to be called wildflowers. Red-winged blackbirds perch on blackberry brambles alongside the trail, calling to each other with a cry that sounds like a rusty screen door. Above us, a small brown kestrel floats on the air currents that sweep up from the sea. Below us, are small, smooth-sand beaches, accessible only to sea lions.

"Look!" says Alex, pointing to something in the middle of the trail. "Mountain lion poop!"

"That is raptor scat," says my husband, with the authority of a man who spent his formative years as a Boy Scout. "See the fur. Raptors can't digest it."

In the interest of science, we poke at the raptor poop with a stick, turning up something that is either a small crab

***Just as we're about to reach the trailhead, we spot something moving in the open field beside us. I squint my eyes and catch the flash of golden paws, a broad head with a black nose. "That's a mountain lion," I say.***

claw or the front incisors of a rodent-like creature.

A little farther down the trail, Alex spots another pile of animal byproduct.

"Now this is mountain lion poop," he says. And I have to agree with him. What he's poking with his stick looks to have come from a meat eater, and it's too big to belong to a fox or a bobcat.

"It's probably from a German shepherd," says my husband.

"Dogs aren't allowed on this trail," I tell him.

"It is not mountain lion poop," he says definitively. And in light of the fact that I didn't even go camping until I was 40, I don't feel qualified to debate it with him.

Stepping carefully around the disputed animal waste, we continue down the trail, walking between tangled vines



Majestic Tule elk inhabit the hills and valleys near Tomales Bay, part of the Point Reyes National Seashore. Photo by Ken Newman

of pink-striped morning glory.

"Oh, my God!" gasps my husband, stopping suddenly.

"What?" asks Alex. "A mountain lion?"

"Look!"

Sitting atop a manzanita bush only a couple of feet from us is an enormous hawk with mottled brown wings. The hawk glares at us with shiny eyes, as though sizing up potential prey.

"Make yourself look bigger," I tell Alex.

The hawk angles its large head, taking in our hiking boots and backpacks and Alex's poop-dissecting stick. Then with a flap of its wide wings, it soars out over the ocean, perhaps in search of more edible-sized lunch.

We keep walking, following the trail as it dips down into a small valley filled with Tule elk. The elk stand pale against the bright green grass, white rumps and bellies, light tan flanks. A male lifts his coat-rack-like head and bellows at the blue sky, sending out an eerily high-pitched cry that seems more like the call of a bird than the trumpeting of a large animal.

"I think this is where Santa keeps his reindeer when he doesn't need them," Alex says.

We climb a low hill to a picnic spot that gives us a view of the crashing Pacific on one side, the smooth water of Tomales Bay on the other, and the grazing elk below. Some bread and cheese and a bottle of Chardonnay later, we decide it isn't really necessary to walk any farther.

On our way back, my husband and

Alex tie branches to the top of their heads and pretend to be elk. Terrified rabbits leap off the trail away from them.

As we near Pierce Point Ranch, a gray mist begins to drift in from the water, turning the dark cypress trees along the trail nearly as white as the dairy farm buildings. From the foggy woods, we hear the soft *who-who*-ing of an owl.

Just as we're about to reach the trailhead, we spot something moving in the open field beside us. I squint my eyes and catch the flash of golden paws, a broad head with a black nose.

"That's a mountain lion," I say.

"It's a bobcat," my husband tells me. He trains his binoculars on the animal that seems much too big to be a bobcat. "Alex!" he shouts, dropping the binoculars. "Stand closer to me!"

The three of us watch the mountain lion pad across the field away from us, small sightings of gold that appear and disappear in the mist.

"I knew that was mountain lion poop," says Alex. He is brandishing the two-inch shaft of Excalibur. On the ground beside him is a pile of Skittles and Legos dumped from his backpack.

We stand at the edge of the field until there's nothing left to see but fog. Then my husband lets Alex lead the way back to the car. □

Janis Cooke Newman's memoir, *The Russian Word for Snow*, is available in paperback at Cover to Cover bookstore.

## Directions to Tomales Point

**Getting to the Trailhead:** Take Highway 101 north to the Lucas Valley Road off-ramp at Marinwood, and head west toward Nicasio and Point Reyes Station. Continue past the turnoff for Point Reyes Station, and go through the towns of Inverness Park and Inverness. Follow Pierce Point Road until it dead-ends at the parking lot at Pierce Point Ranch. This is the start of the Tomales Point Trail. (Depending on traffic, the drive from Noe Valley takes 1½ to 2 hours.)

The trail follows the ridge between the ocean and Tomales Bay for 4.7 miles. If you hike all the way to the end and back, it's a 9.4-mile walk. We usually check our watches when we start, and turn around when we've hiked half the amount of time we want to be on the trail.

Note: There is no restroom at the Tomales Point trailhead. Your best bet is to stop at the parking lot for the Abbott's Lagoon trailhead a couple of miles before the end of Pierce Point Road and use the facilities there.

## Picnicking on the Tomales Point Trail:

If you'd like to feast on West Marin delicacies during your hike, take a short detour into Point Reyes Station and visit Tomales Bay Foods at 80 Fourth Street. Here you can buy farm produce, cheese, and gourmet sandwiches. Tomales Bay Foods is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday.



Pierce Point Ranch is the first of many curiosities you may come across if you hike the five-mile Tomales Point Trail.

Photo by Ken Newman



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## BOOKS *in our* BRANCH

This month's new books list, written by librarians Roberta Greifer and Carol Small, features an ex-CIA agent's views on terrorism, a thriller about the first woman president, and the story of why cats meow. To find out if a book is available, call 695-5095 or visit the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey Street. Besides books, the branch offers videos, DVDs, magazines, CDs, tapes, and the archives and index to the *Noe Valley Voice*. It also has a collection of adult books in Spanish, a women's collection, and subscriptions to the Sunday and daily *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *USA Today*, and *Barron's*. Hours are Tuesdays, 10 to 9; Wednesdays, 1 to 9; Thursdays, 10 to 6; Fridays, 1 to 6; and Saturdays, 10 to 6.

### Adult Fiction

◆ Russian gangsters, computer hackers, an American terrorist group, and a germ warfare attack on the United Nations headquarters are parts of the puzzle in *The Watchman*, the newest thriller from Brian Freemantle.

◆ Philip Shelby's *By Dawn's Early Light* unravels a plot against the first woman president of the United States, amidst political maneuverings by China and America.

◆ In John Altman's thriller *A Game of Spies*, set in 1940, spy Eva Bernhardt has vital information for British intelligence, and a devilish time delivering it while saving her own skin.

◆ Maud Casey's moving and darkly funny *The Shape of Things to Come* follows a 30-ish San Francisco woman, who returns to live in the Midwest of her youth as a grownup still coming of age.

### Adult Nonfiction

◆ *Girl in the Mirror: Mothers and Daughters in the Years of Adolescence*, by Nancy Snyderman, offers help for assessing perceptions, handling tough situations, avoiding conflict, and gracefully managing change during a time of personal growth.

◆ In Robert Baer's *See No Evil: The True Story of a Ground Soldier in the CIA's Counter Terrorism Wars*, we hear an ex-CIA agent's point of view on the workings of terrorism and how the agency sabotaged its own goals and campaigns.

◆ In *Among the Bears, Raising Orphan Cubs in the Wild*, Benjamin Kilham records his years observing bears and discovering intelligence and cooperation among bears that has radically revised our notions of animal behavior.

Annotations by Roberta Greifer  
Head Librarian, Noe Valley Branch



## Library Activities

### National Poetry Month

◆ In honor of *National Poetry Month*, two local poets will read from their work. Jenny Lim, a second-generation Chinese American born and raised in San Francisco, is also a playwright whose film *Paper Angels* was screened at last month's Asian American Film Festival. Louise Nayer, the author of three collections of poetry including *How to Bury a Goldfish: 113 Rituals for Everyday Life*, is the recipient of six California Arts Council grants as a poet-in-residence, and is currently writing her memoirs. The reading begins at 7:30 p.m., on Wednesday, April 24, at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey Street.

### Children's Fiction

◆ Mary Ann Hoehrmann (adaptor) and Nadine Bernard Westcott (illustrator) combine their talents in *There Once Was a Man Named Michael Finnegan*, an extended and enjoyably silly version of a traditional song. *Ages 3 to 6.*

◆ Is Olivia telling the truth about her recent vacation? If she is, she had an extraordinary break from school in *Olivia Saves the Circus* by Ian Falconer. *Ages 3 to 6.*

◆ In *Bunny Party*, Rosemary Wells shows that a gentle but clever sibling can be creatively assertive with an older sibling who tends to be a trifle bossy. *Ages 4 to 6.*

◆ In *Iris and Walter, True Friends*, by Elissa Haden Guest, two children use their complementary skills to help each other move forward into new situations. *Ages 5 to 7.*

◆ With *Emily's Art*, author/illustrator Peter Catalanotto has created a touching story dealing with the pitfalls of trying to judge children's art, and the importance of supporting each child's talents and efforts. *Ages 6 to 9.*

◆ Feeling the harsh impact of the Jim Crow laws in 1950s Nashville, Tricia Ann is grateful to finally arrive at the public library in *Goin' Someplace Special* by Patricia C. McKissack, illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. *Ages 6 and up.*

◆ Jack starts out feeling he doesn't want to write poetry "because boys...don't," but finally reveals his feelings in poetry and invites an author to visit his school in *Love That Dog* by Sharon Creech. *Ages 9 and up.*

### Children's Nonfiction

◆ If you have any questions about the "most popular pet in the United States," you can probably find the answers you need in Joan Holub's *Why Do Cats Meow?*, an easy-to-read, informative book about the habits and needs of pet cats. *Ages 6 and up.*

Annotations by Carol Small  
Children's Librarian, Noe Valley Branch

### The Bubble Lady

◆ Rebecca Nile brings the *Bubble Family* and other characters to life, for kids preschool-age and up, at 10 and 11 a.m., Tuesday, April 23.

### Preschool Story Time

◆ Children ages 3 to 5 can hear stories read aloud at the library's *preschool story time*, at 10 a.m., Tuesdays, April 2, 9, and 16.

### Movie Tuesday

◆ Preschoolers 3 to 5 are invited to watch films, including *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*; *Good Night, Gorilla*; and *Monty*, at 10 and 11 a.m. on Tuesday, April 30.

### No May Lapsits

◆ The family-hour Saturday *lapsits* will resume in June.

Unless otherwise noted, events are at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St. • 695-5095

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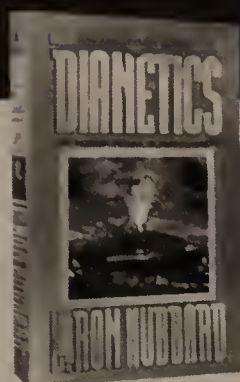
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## Our Readers Spring Forward

No moss grows on our neighborhood trekkers. While the wind's still a bit nippy back home, one may as well get out of town and bare those arms and legs where it takes less bravery. And if it happens that gloves are required when you reach your destination, don't blame us. It's still only April. But do write and tell the tale. And send it to us so we can showcase your travels in this section.

Mail your letters and photo prints to the *Noe Valley Voice*, Attn: Readers, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. If using the Internet is more convenient, e-mail your message and attach your photo to [jack@noevalleyvoice.com](mailto:jack@noevalleyvoice.com). Please remember to type in "Attention Readers" in the subject line. Thanks!



Members of Bethany United Methodist Church kept in touch with events back in the nabe while on a "Mission Trip" to Nicaragua in February. The team provided medical, educational, and construction work in the town of Jalapa. Members included (back row, left to right) Jenx Jenkins, Glenn Eagleson, Cathy Personius, Susan Foster, Diane Cameron, (front row) Robin Ridenhour, Rev. Karen Oliveto, and Paulina Personius.



Sanchez Street resident Gerald Lee remembered to pack a copy of the *Voice* on his trip to Luang Prabang, Laos, in early March.



The investigation of the covered bridges of Madison County, by former Iowan Lena Gilbert, proved them to be perfectly adequate places for reading her hometown journal.

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... straight-up fabulous."

*San Francisco Magazine*



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# STORE TREK

**S**ore Trek is a *Voice* feature profiling new shops and restaurants in the neighborhood. This month we introduce a European-style coffeehouse located at the end of Church Street, and a restaurant on 24th Street specializing in spicy, almost light New Orleans cooking.

## Café XO

1799 Church Street (at 30th Street)  
826-3535

[www.cafexo.com](http://www.cafexo.com)

Owner Adam Bousiakos says he is already getting hugs and kisses for his Café XO, which opened in late January at the corner of Church and 30th, in the spot occupied by Akropolis Travel for 20 years.

He estimates that since Valentine's Day, Café XO has served about 400 customers a day. "I didn't really expect this—the customers tell me they love the place!"

To give his coffeehouse a romantic feel, Bousiakos, with the help of friend and architect Robert Sauvageau, painted the walls a warm merlot red, put in a fireplace surrounded by overstuffed chairs, and decorated with accents such as the beautiful oil painting of Venice's Grand Canal, by Novato artist George Gegaige.

He also added classical music, little marble-top tables, and a statue of the Emperor Anthony. "He was the emperor of love because he loved poor people and loved helping people," says Bousiakos, who was born and raised in Greece.

Because the café sits on one of Noe Valley's busiest corners—the J-Church and the No. 24 and 26 bus lines intersect there—customers can watch the streetcar turn while sipping their lattes and dreaming of an Italian vacation.

"This is exactly what I wanted XO to be," says Bousiakos, "like a Venetian bistro. It's warm and cozy, and we have lots of good things to eat and drink."

In the morning, XO serves pastries and croissants from DeLessio (starting at \$2), bagels from Manhattan Bagel (with cream cheese, \$2), and of course coffee. "I have a dozen blends of coffee, including our own organic one, roasted here in San Francisco. I also have eight kinds of organic teas, plus all the regular teas." A cup of house coffee sells for \$1.10, a latte for \$2, and a mocha for \$2.30.

At 11:30, Bousiakos and staff roll out the soup of the day (\$3.75, with focaccia bread) and a menu of lunch specials in-

cluding sandwiches, quiches, frittatas, and salads. A ham and swiss cheese sandwich with mixed-green salad goes for \$5.95, or a pear salad with Brie cheese and champagne vinaigrette for \$6.95. "Lunchtime ends when we sell out of sandwiches!" Bousiakos laughs.

XO also whips up a Smoothie of the Day (\$3.75), with fresh fruit from Church Produce across the street.

If you crave desserts, XO will tempt you with sweets such as the lemon polenta cake with berries and crème fraîche, carrot cake by Mervyn Mark (of What's for Dessert fame), a triple-chocolate layer cake, and Bousiakos' trademark tiramisu (all \$4.75). "It's all in the presentation," the proprietor says. "I put the dessert on a big square plate and drizzle 'XO' on the side with raspberry, mango, or kiwi sauce."

The café also offers cheesecake, cookies, brownies, and—a house specialty—fruit or chocolate fondue, \$10.75 for one to four people.

Before launching his new venture, Bousiakos worked as a manager for many years at Noe Valley Pizza on 24th Street. He also lives at Dolores and San Jose, a couple of blocks from XO. "I've been around Noe Valley for about eight years. I know all my customers."

XO's patrons will get a lot of little extras, he says, such as free coffee refills and biscuits for their canine companions. Each evening, the candles on the Roman pillars are lit, to enhance the atmosphere. "I really want you to be comfortable here."

Hours are from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and Sundays, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.



Adam Bousiakos invites patrons to linger over coffee and dessert at his romantic Café XO on Church Street.



True to his nickname, Chef "Gator" Thompson serves grilled alligator sausage and other cajun specialties at Alcatrazes. Photos by Beverly Thorp

## Alcatrazes

4042 24th Street (between Noe and Castro)

401-7668

No, Alcatrazes is not dishing out food from the prison mess hall at Alcatraz. Rather, this popular new addition to the 24th Street restaurant scene is serving California Creole, an original cuisine created by Chef Glenn "Gator" Thompson.

"Creole cooking tends to be very heavy, with the French influence of heavy sauces," Thompson explains. "My take is lighter, but with every bit of the flavor still there. I call it 'New Orleans meets California.'"

Alcatrazes, pronounced Al-cah-TRAH-sez, opened in mid-January in Legume's former location, next to Zephyr Real Estate. Thompson co-owns the restaurant with Hal Russek, who is also the general manager at Enrico's in North Beach. The two met several years ago while Thompson was working at the jazz club Storryville on Fulton Street.

According to Thompson, the partners named their new café *Alcatrazes*, which is Mexican Spanish for Cala lilies, "because of the flowers' welcoming look." By mid-March, they were welcoming so many diners, they had to send the overflow to Bliss Bar down the street.

The restaurant is small—it only seats 25—and is decorated to feel like a Mardi

Gras party. "You check your bad mood when you walk in," Thompson says, "and with all the good juju and good feeling here, you'll walk out smiling."

Colorful beads, masks, and genie dolls adorn the walls. Thompson points to "the father of the house," a huge African mask done up with good luck charms. "The father is our protector, what with his arms wide open and all." Another smaller mask guards the kitchen.

Thompson grew up in Oakland and has been cooking professionally since he was 14. "I got a job at the Hungry Hunter in Oakland. Later on, I guess I was good, so I got a position at the Beverly Hills Hotel on Wilshire." After immersing himself in northern Italian cooking, he worked at a Cajun restaurant in St. Louis, Mo. "That's where I started thinking about Creole."

He's been perfecting his style of Creole cooking for 10 years. "It's taken that long to clean it up and refine it, and present it from a California point of view."

For a true taste of cuisine à la Gator, Thompson suggests you start out with a "Gator Bait" appetizer such as barbecued shrimp (\$9) or crawfish bisque (crawfish tails, chopped veggies, and cayenne pepper, \$7), and then dig into entrees such as the garlic crab ravioli (Dungeness crab in a spicy tomato sauce, \$15), sweet potato catfish (served with spinach and hot-link gravy, \$15), or cypress bayou stuffed chicken (breast of chicken with crawfish stuffing and spicy cabbage, \$14). The dinner menu also features filet mignon, "Gator's Gumbo," jambalaya, and a bouillabaisse with a mix of seafood, vegetables, and new potatoes.

For lunch, you can order gumbo, crawfish étouffée, jambalaya, and other Creole dishes, in smaller portions and at lower prices (up to \$9). You can also choose from nine kinds of "Rollie Pollie Boys," sandwiches or wraps filled with things like chicken, shrimp, or even alligator. The po' boys go for \$6 to \$8.

Beer is \$4 a bottle. Wines run from \$3.50 for a half glass, to \$26 for a bottle.

Alcatrazes is open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5:30 to 10 p.m. Sorry, no reservations at this point ("we're so small, we even have trouble with parties over four," laments manager Lauri Balog). But starting March 31, Alcatrazes will be open for brunch on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

—Heidi Anderson

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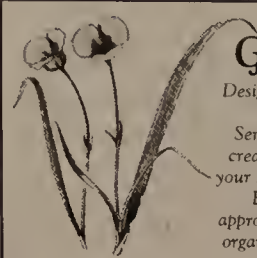
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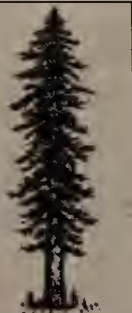
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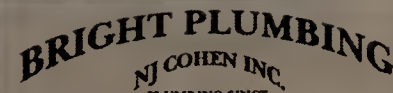
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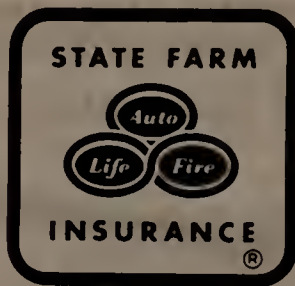
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Contact: Greg Clark, 826-6222  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31869, San Francisco, CA 94131-0869  
Meetings: First Tuesday of month, in the auditorium at Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez, 7 p.m.

### Castro Area Planning + Action

Contact: Linton Stables, 541-0344, ext. 230; [capa@home4us.org](mailto:capa@home4us.org)  
Meetings: Second Thursday of month, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

### Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Association

Contact: Mike Moberg, 647-1330  
Mailing Address: First Church of God, 3728 Cesar Chavez St., San Francisco, CA 94110  
Meetings: Call for details.

### Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Betsy Eddy, 239-5776  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: First Thursday of month, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

### Dolores Heights Improvement Club

Contact: Amy Powell, 647-4228  
Mailing Address: 3732 21st St., San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Bimonthly board meetings; membership meetings semi-annually. Call for details.

### Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)

Contact: Keith Eickman, 282-8988; Evelyn Martin, 826-6734; Deanna Mooney, 821-4045  
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

### East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club

Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753  
Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St., San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: First Wednesday of month, Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m. Call for summer holiday schedule.

### Eureka Valley Promotion Association

Contact: Lion Barnett, 255-3624  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137, San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Third Thursday of every month (except December), Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

### Fair Oaks Neighbors

Contact: Pam Coxson, 648-4977  
Mailing Address: 25 Fair Oaks St., San Francisco, CA 94110  
Meetings: Call for details. The annual Fair Oaks Street Fair is always held the day before Mother's Day.

### Friends of Glen Canyon Park

Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862  
Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Call for details.

### Friends of Noe Valley

Contact: Dave Monks, 821-4087  
Mailing Address: 538 Elizabeth St., San Francisco, CA 94114  
Meetings: Second Thursday of month, Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

### Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990  
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### Noe Strolls "Playgroup on Wheels"

Contact: Martine, [noestrolls@yahoo.com](mailto:noestrolls@yahoo.com).  
Monthly Stroll: First Tuesday of month, 1 p.m. To receive stroll locations and notices of other events, e-mail your first name, and your baby's first name and age, to [noestrolls@yahoo.com](mailto:noestrolls@yahoo.com), or log on to the group's web site: [www.noestrolls.com](http://www.noestrolls.com).

### Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Dee Andrews, 285-6043  
Mailing Address: 273A 27th St., San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Third Wednesday of month, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

### Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association

Contact: Robert Roddick, 641-8692  
Mailing Address: Robert T. Roddick, Noe Valley Law Offices, P.O. Box 460574, San Francisco, CA 94114-6003  
Meetings: Last Wednesday of month, Bank of America, 24th & Castro, 9 a.m.

### Outer Noe Valley Merchants

Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500  
Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Call for details.

### Southwest Mission Neighborhood Association

Contact: Lori Oshiro, Secretary  
E-mail: [lodoosh@pachell.net](mailto:lodoosh@pachell.net)  
SWMNA web site: [www.lodoosh.com](http://www.lodoosh.com)  
Mailing Address: 1345 Guerrero St., San Francisco, CA 94110  
Meetings: Second Thursday of month, Salvation Army, 3550 Cesar Chavez St., 7 p.m. (Membership includes residents who live between Mission and Fair Oaks and Cesar Chavez and 24th streets.)

### Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Vicki Rosen, 285-0473  
Mailing Address: 169 Valley St., San Francisco, CA 94131  
Meetings: Generally last Thursday of month (call to confirm), Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez, 7:30 p.m.

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Sat. April 6 **TANGO No. 9** • A history of Tango performance with singers and dancers \$12 adv / \$14 door

Sun. April 7 An evening with Terry RILEY  
7 p.m. A benefit concert to pay for our piano, presented with NV Chamber Music \$25 donation

Sat. April 20 **BOX SET DUO** All tix \$15

Fri. April 26 **CHARLIE KING & KAREN BRANDOW**  
Singers/songwriters \$12 adv / \$14 door

Sun. April 27 **GREAT GUITAR NIGHT**  
7:30 p.m. With Jim Campilongo, Leni Stern,  
Will Bernard, and Adam Levy \$14 adv / \$16 door

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A Project of Noe Valley Ministry Presbyterian Church



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**Singercise with Candy Forest.** Have fun while you change your voice and your life! Individual and group lessons available. 415-648-8471.

**Artist's Studio Space for Rent.** 16 x 24 (not live-in!), Upper Noe, with street entrance. Back opens into lovely garden with Eight-Fold Path to quietly share with cats and writer. No toxics or smoking, please. \$555 per month plus good references/credit history. Contact Booklegger, 415-642-7569.

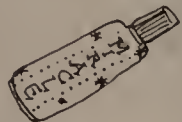
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**Oddball Garage Space Wanted** for long-term auto storage. 550-8183.

**Want a Simpler, More Serene Life?** Learn to meditate. Call John at 415-793-4248, or e-mail [nothought9@yahoo.com](mailto:nothought9@yahoo.com).

**Room for Rent.** Furnished; shared bath/kitchen. Two quiet, mature women, a dog, and a cat. \$625, plus first and last. call 415-824-4405.

**Dogs Co-Pilot** in Glen Park home, providing day care, boarding, scheduled recreational outings adapted to needs, by a devoted godparent/volunteer experienced with most breeds. 587-3040.



**Vegetarian Cooking Class.** Quick and easy yogic recipes for people who want to learn how to cook nutritious, simple, quick, and tasty vegetarian meals. The students will learn the recipe, cook together with the instructor, and enjoy a delicious meal. Sunday, April 28, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. \$40. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

**Beginning Mosaic Workshops** in idyllic setting with longtime Potrero Hill artist. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., plus Sunday, noon to 3 p.m. Create a mosaic stepping-stone: original art for your garden. All materials provided. For dates and information: Joni, 648-6740.

**Selling Your House?** Increase value and beauty with landscaping! Expert cleanup, planting, pruning, color. Call Carlin's Gardens, 415-826-3127.

**Kauai Vacation Rental.** North Shore, three-bedroom, two-bath house, two studios. [www.kathysgetaways.com](http://www.kathysgetaways.com); 415-647-5900.

**Russian River Vacation Home** in sunny redwoods. Near Duncan Mills/Cazadero. Hot tub, wood stove. Sleeps six plus. Fully equipped, with linens. \$190 per night, \$795 per week. Ellen Weinstein and Fred Weiner, 415-587-7424.

**Psychotherapy for New Moms** (babies welcome). 15 years in licensed private practice. Depth work, short or long term. Leah Seidler, M.S.W., L.C.S. #13456. Phone 415-821-2323.

**Cello, Piano** instruction for beginning to advanced students from established teachers. Please contact 415-731-3698 or [frommerna@hotmail.com](mailto:frommerna@hotmail.com).

**La Casita: Cozy Getaway** in Mendocino wine country. Living room, kitchen, small bedroom, and bath. \$75 per night, two-night minimum. Weekends and holidays. [Margway@saber.net](mailto:Margway@saber.net).

**Pursue Your Passion and Still Enjoy Working!** Part-time, home-based professional assistant for marketing and administrative work. Also hiring part-time, home-based full-charge bookkeepers. Must be experienced, Internet and computer proficient. Flexible hours. Competitive compensation. Fax 864-0790; [dlardie@dlardie.com](mailto:dlardie@dlardie.com).

**Clown, Cowboy, Magician!** Get the Noe Valley entertainer for your next birthday party. Ask for the neighborhood discount. 415-643-8995; [www.woodylabounty.com](http://www.woodylabounty.com).

**Drywall Djerry.** Djourmeyman (expert) sheetrock. Fair, reliable, quick. 468-1531.

**Looking for an Experienced** (20 Years), reliable house cleaner? Stop your search! One person cleans your home, not teams; I have great clients and references. Are you tired of teams of different people doing low-quality work, if they show up at all? I run a professional, high-quality service. Call Ta-Da Housecleaning at 415-285-3014. (Please listen to the entire message and leave yours in Ta-Da Housecleaning mailbox: press star-3.)

**PC Training.** Introduction to Win, Word, Excel, by very patient community college teacher. Special offer: 1 1/2 hours for \$40. 864-5311.

**Maui Family Vacation Rental.** Two-bedroom, two-bathroom, ocean-view unit in the Kahana Sunset complex, on a beautiful private beach. Great for families—sleeps six. Children's wading pool, full kitchen, two large lanais, barbecue facilities. Close to shops. For more details, see [www.kapahua.com](http://www.kapahua.com); click on vacation rentals and select Kahana Sunset. Call us for "owner-direct" discount at 415-285-6553.

## CLAS ADS

**Dog Walking Service** of San Francisco: 731-0120. Established 1995. Bonded and insured!

**Psychotherapy:** Smart, tough, sophisticated, big-hearted therapist seeks clients ready to do the hard work. Individuals and couples. 27 years of experience in brief and long-term work. Steven Galper, L.C.S.W. #15713. 415-647-8719.

**Hatha Yoga Modifications for Back Care.** Come to this two-hour workshop and learn how Hatha Yoga can relieve back pain and strengthen the back. Don't let stiffness or back pain keep you from doing what you love. Tuesday, April 23, from 6 to 8:15 p.m. \$18. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

**Short-Term Rental in Upper Noe Valley.** Our two-bedroom apartment has been beautifully remodeled and decorated, and is available by the weekend or the week. Enjoy the marble and granite bathroom, a working kitchen, TV with DVD and VCR. Deck, backyard, and laundry access. Well-behaved dog okay, with discussion and deposit. Good street parking with easy walk to public transit. Perfect for guests who are looking for accommodations with personality. Alan, 824-2028.

**Yoga Class** for beginners and continuing beginners. Ongoing Thursday nights, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Noe Valley Ministry, Sanchez between 24th and 23rd Street. Suggested donation \$8.

**Cleaning Professional.** 16 years experience, home or office. Roger Miller, 415-664-0513.

**Housepainting:** Licensed journeyman, 12 years experience with San Francisco interiors and exteriors. Kevin, 775-2246.

**Thinking About Cutting Down or Quitting?** Substance use counseling for all drug and alcohol-related problems. Assessments, referrals, supportive counseling. Eric Denner, M.A., Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (C.A.D.C.). 415-824-4541.

**House Cleaning.** Are you looking for a reliable person to clean your house? You can count on me. Available seven days a week. Good references and own transportation. Leave a message for Erica or Zeze at 415-948-9007.

**Host Families Wanted.** International students need housing/meals. One week to one year. Have fun! Get paid! Call Jacqueline, 510-215-8720.

**Licensed Painter.** Large or small jobs. Painting and plaster repair. Water damage repaired. Free estimates. License #497-214. Call Ed at 995-4666.

**Psychotherapy Office for Rent.** Sunny furnished room in an established suite of professional offices in Noe Valley. Close to J-Church line and BART. Shared waiting room and bathroom. Combination lock on front door. Available Mondays, Fridays, and Sundays all day. Call 821-7517.

**Paris Apartment.** Charming one-bedroom, remodeled, sleeps four. Ninth Arrondissement, minutes from opera, Montmartre. Near Market Street. [www.frenchapt.freesevers.com](http://www.frenchapt.freesevers.com). Call 415-282-8912.



**Bed and Breakfast in Noe Valley.** Experience the Victorian charm of old San Francisco in designer's beautiful, spacious, three-room suite with private entrance. Delicious fare, reasonable rates, two blocks to 24th Street. "A Victorian Legacy." Call Patricia, 648-8879.

**Piano Lessons.** Noe Valley-based musician with B.A. and M.M. in music and pedagogy, all ages, kids a specialty! 15 years experience. Carla, 415-648-3651.

**House Cleaning.** Homes, offices, apartments. Honest person, references available. Call Pedro and Márcia at 415-239-6746.

**Dogwalking/Petsitting.** One-on-one walks (no groups), so that your pet gets the individual attention he or she deserves! Vacation petsitting also available. Call Lara at 415-621-5214.

**Rose Housecleaning.** Great references. Available seven days a week. Call 650-991-7172.

**Tired of Squeezing** your out-of-town parents or friends into your already jammed home? Visiting the city on a temporary business assignment? Charming, fully furnished studio, cable TV, VCR, stereo, kitchen, full bath, laundry, garden, phone. Available on a short-time basis. Next to open space, easy parking, good transportation. Bernal Heights, 415-285-7064.

**Asian Bodywork.** I integrate spiritual healing energies with an eclectic mix of shiatsu, tui na Thai, and acupressure to produce a profound sense of relaxation and balance. Call Catherine at 771-0480. Noe Valley location.

**Home and Office Cleaning.** Excellent references, professional. Reasonable rates. For more details call Marco and Sonia, 415-596-9200 or 415-577-9209.

**Transform Your Jungle** into a paradise. Pruning, cleanups, planting, lawns, irrigation, maintenance. Call Jorge at 826-7840 for free estimates. Remember, it's pruning time.



**Piano Lessons in Your Home!** Experienced teacher with Master of Music degree. Theory, music history, ear training, repertoire, composition. All ages and levels. 415-948-6788.

**HIV and Yoga.** This drop-in Hatha Yoga class is for those whose lives have been touched by HIV (including family, friends, and caregivers). Beginners welcome. Bring a towel, loose comfortable clothing, and an empty stomach. Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$9 (\$6 for first class or needing assistance). Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

**Vacation Retreat for Noe Valleyans.** Calistoga/St. Helena area. Three bedrooms, two baths, sleeps six (maximum); large decks with views of stream, woods, and meadow. Fireplace with wood supplied; 30 acres, trails, all-year stream, ornamental fish pond. Dogs okay. Three-night weekend, \$500; stay up to four more nights for free. Additional nights after first seven are \$70 per night or four weeks at \$1,750. Discount given to repeat guests. 415-647-3052 (phone and fax).

**I'll Drive You** grocery shopping, doctor appointments, or other San Francisco errands. Personalized service (can help you shop, carry groceries, wait for you in doctor's office, etc.). Very dependable and friendly. Outstanding references. \$20 per hour (two-hour minimum). Please call Bill, 826-3613.

**Gentle Yoga.** Simple stretches, yoga postures, deep relaxation, and breathing techniques to gently stretch and strengthen the body. Beginners welcome. Bring a towel, loose clothing, and empty stomach. Tuesdays, 4:30 to 6 p.m., and Sundays, 9:30 to 11 a.m. \$9 (\$6 for first class and seniors). Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 821-1117.

**Custom Carpentry and Remodeling.** All kinds, inside and out. Reliable, honest, friendly carpenter with 30-plus years experience and local references. Call John at 244-4817 or voice mail, 650-992-7107.

**Home and Office Cleaning.** Excellent references, professional, reasonable prices. For more details call Ruskaya and Alexis at 415-255-0636.

**Health and Fitness Support Group** forming. As we approach our 60s, 70s, and 80s, we want to be able to do most of the things we did when we were younger! Learn how. Ages 40s to 60s ideal for this group. 415-668-8310.

**Housecleaning.** Homes, offices, apartments. If you are looking for a housekeeper who's an honest person, available, with references, call Selva, 650-758-2496 or 415-203-2496.

**Meditation Workshop.** This is a practical workshop that will enable you to begin earnest meditation on your own. A clear understanding of what meditation is, how it works, and how to make it an enjoyable daily experience will be presented. It's suitable for beginners and more experienced students who want to be inspired. Tuesday, April 9, 6 to 7:30 p.m. \$9. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

**Charlie the Phone Guy:** Residence, business, home office telephone wiring. Fax/modem lines, DSL, Ethernet, too! Dead jacks brought back to life! Separate jacks for roommates. On time appointments! Free estimates. Noe Valley resident. Call 641-8654. E-mail [sfphoneguy@aol.com](mailto:sfphoneguy@aol.com).

**Handier Andy.** Home repairs, carpentry, stairs, decks, fences, sheetrock, ceramic tile, painting. 415-564-1175.

**Are You Seeking Growth** in your relationships? I work with couples and individuals, assisting them in transforming old patterns. In addition, I work with children and adolescents who may be struggling with the challenges of young adulthood. Grounded and compassionate psychotherapy. Chris Kughn, M.F.T. license #MFC 37183. Noe Valley office. Call 415-257-0995.

**Bed and Breakfast "Cottage Gate."** Charming studio apartment; queen bed, kitchenette, breakfast choices provided, phone, cable, private bath, security gate, level private entrance. 20th and Douglass. 415-626-6497.

**Long-Term Care and Medical Insurance.** Free quote for individuals, families, and companies. Expert help at no extra cost! 14 years experience. "A" rated plans. Bill Hannant, 647-7012. License 0723231.

**Glowing with Radiant Health and Well-Being.** Come and experience how just with using the breath you can invigorate the body and mind, making it healthy and peaceful. We will explore the basis of the practices of pranayama and then experience the techniques. The practices will include three-part breathing, alternate nostril breathing, *bhramari*, *kapalabhati*, and an introduction to the *bandhas*. Tuesday, April 30, 6 to 7:30 p.m. \$9. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

**Superlative Word Processing.** Experienced professional, B.A. English, M.S.W. Understandable advice. Business, medical, academic, legal; resumes, manuscripts. Expert editing. Fax machine. Laser printing. Good rates. Call anytime. 824-7736.

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**Quaint "Victorian Garden" B&B** near 26th and Sanchez. Private and ground level, living room, fireplace, bathroom, bedroom with queen-size bed, office nook, flower-filled patio/garden, laundry facilities, phone sound system, cable TV, plentiful breakfast items. Apartment is lovely and quiet. Two-night minimum. Reasonably priced. Call 206-0202.

**Drop-In Hatha Yoga.** Learn yoga postures, deep relaxation, and breathing techniques. We offer Prenatal, Parent/Baby, Gentle, and Advanced Yoga classes, too. Beginners are welcome. Bring a towel, loose clothing, and empty stomach. Classes daily. Phone 415-821-1117 for the class schedule. \$9 (\$6 for first class and seniors). Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St.



**Clean & Natural:** Housecleaning. License #323567, and bonded for your protection. Biweekly, weekly, move-in/out. Owner operated. Call Simone, 415-303-9865 or 415-577-8188.

**Bed and Breakfast in Noe Valley.** Parents or friends coming, and no room for them? Have them stay in a lovely two-room apartment with private entrance and bathroom, fireplace, kitchen, antique furnishings. Convenient to 24th Street and J-Church line. Oliver House, 415-695-0700.

**PC/Mac/iMac Computer? Need Help?** I can... help you clean up your computer, get your computer talking to your printer and modem, set up e-mail and the web, etc. I'm the tech coordinator at an elementary school. Done in your home. 642-8287.

**Laughing Meditation.** This fun workshop involves some Hatha Yoga poses, extended conscious laughter, followed by a silent meditation. Dress for Hatha Yoga, bring a towel, and expect to have a wonderful, fun time. Tuesday, April 16, 6 to 7:30 p.m. \$9. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

**Roofing Professional.** Many years experience. Three years architecture school. Bachelor's degree. Dutch gutters plus all general roofing problems solved. References and guaranteed materials. Quality metal work. Shingles, flat roofs, cedar siding, gutters, new skylights. 415-978-9375.

**Time for a Change?** I believe you already know everything you need to know to live a rich and fulfilling life. Sometimes, though, we lose touch with this knowledge. Psychotherapy can help you reconnect. My areas of interest and experience include life transitions, identity issues, chronic illness, mind/body connections, anxiety/panic, grief, creativity, lesbian/gay issues, depression, early traumas, and cross-cultural issues. Sliding scale. Marilyn Jean, L.M.F.T. #35206. Noe Valley, 789-8506.

**Get Organized!** "Spring" into action! Drowning in papers? Cluttered closets? Save time, money, and sanity. Nonjudgmental help. You do not have to do it alone. Susan Bloch, 282-0218.

**Drop-In Parent/Baby Yoga.** This class is for parents and their pre-crawling babies. It includes gentle stretching, chanting, breathing, deep relaxation, sharing, and discussion. Fridays, 9:30 to 11 a.m. \$9. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

**Piano Lessons in Noe Valley:** Learn piano with patient, supportive teacher. Lessons tailored to individual goals. Music degree and 24 years of teaching experience. Ear training, theory, classical or popular repertoire, MIDI lab. Barbara Bennett, 648-1007.

**Guitar Lessons.** Noe Valley, Bernal Heights. Former Pickle Family Circus music director, composer of Academy Award-winning film. B.A. Berklee, 20 years of teaching experience. All ages, beginners welcome. Fun, reasonable. Mark, 282-8244.

**Handywoman Julie** will repair those inside and outside problems you aren't getting around to and wish you could. Get reliable, friendly, and creative help now. Call 550-6792.

**Drop-In Prenatal Yoga.** Yoga stretches, breathing practices, and deep relaxation can assist you in maintaining an easeful, peaceful, and joyful pregnancy and a more relaxed birth. Tuesdays, 7:30 to 9 p.m., and Thursdays, 6 to 7:30 p.m. \$9. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

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NOE VALLEY VOICE  
CLASS ADS

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**Flute Lessons.** Noe Valley-based flutist with B.A. and M.M. in music and pedagogy, accepting students of all ages and levels. 20 years experience. Carla, 415-648-3651.

**Hauling and Cleaning.** Home, garage, building, patio, and backyard. We haul old furniture, stoves, refrigerators, washing machines and dryers, and general refuse. Free estimate. Call Adriano, 415-990-4062.

**Beautiful Rental Unit,** two weeks to two months. Self-contained flat in Noe Valley with garden access. Quiet home, owner-occupied. Ideal for studying and restful retreat. Fireplace, washer/dryer, gym, complete kitchen, stereo, TV. Just renovated. Spinnet piano. One bedroom. Great location. \$850 per week or \$2,600 per month. 415-821-4872; e-mail [wotan2u@aol.com](mailto:wotan2u@aol.com); [www.sanfranciscovictorian.com](http://www.sanfranciscovictorian.com).

**Living Tai Chi Chuan of Noe Valley.** Meditation, Qigong, Tai Chi forms. Friendly, non-competitive. Monday and Tuesday, 6 p.m., Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. Mornings by appointment, 10:15 a.m., Douglass Park, Douglass at 27th. \$5 introduction (Mondays excluded). Chris Sequeira, practicing since 1973. 650-756-6857; 415-773-8185.

**Interior Design Service.** Noe Valley-based, excellent references, reasonable fees. A full description of services available and contact information can be found at [www.designbyrobertson.com](http://www.designbyrobertson.com) or by telephoning 415-596-7346.

**Psychotherapy to Relieve Fears** and emotional pain. Explore career and midlife transitions, relationships, creativity issues, dreams. Make peace with your past. Re-direct your future. Individuals, couples, all persuasions. Jennifer Feeley, M.F.T. (MFC35307). Sliding-scale, evening and Sunday appointments available. 415-244-7850. More at [www.jenniferfeeley.com](http://www.jenniferfeeley.com).

**Learn Spanish Now with Weekend en Español!** Weekdays and weekends, all levels; also Medical Spanish. Or join us for *Semana en Español*, our unique total immersion program in Oaxaca, Mexico. New! Oaxaca for Non-Spanish Speakers, May 10 through 19! 415-923-0754; [info@weekendenespanol.com](mailto:info@weekendenespanol.com).



**Red's Hauling.** Yardwork, basements, miscellaneous. Free estimates! 415-281-0732.

**Audio Design Services** for home or office. Avoid salesman hype and save substantial \$ as a result. I will analyze your listening interests and space and budget constraints and configure the best-sounding, most cost-effective system to meet your needs. Interior design considerations and system flexibility to facilitate future expansions/upgrades also included. 40 years audiophile experience. Reasonable rates. Initial consultation free. 415-285-8482.

**Gourmet Vegetarian Cuisine** delivered to your doorstep. Diverse menus, naturally low in fat, cholesterol, and salt. Treat yourself right! Gift certificates available. For a monthly menu call Jane, 826-2133; [www.pealcuisine.com](http://www.pealcuisine.com).

**Pre-Marital Workshop:** Clarify your intentions for marriage, and navigate the process of engagement in a safe and supportive atmosphere. Two half-day workshops, March 9 and April 13. Call Chris Kughn, M.F.T., 415-257-0995, for more information and a free initial interview.

**PC Tech/NT Administrator** available to maximize your capability. Personable, personalized computer assistance where and how you want it. Network, desktop, Lan, Wan. Data security or data recovery. Win98, NT4, Win2000, WinME, WinXP. Tips, tweaks, and troubleshooting. Software and hardware installation and configuration. \$35 per hour; special rates available for non-profits. Paul Jimereson, 415-934-1524; [pj@melangenet.net](mailto:pj@melangenet.net).

**Home and Office Cleaning.** Excellent references, professional, reasonable prices. For more details call Ruskaya and Alexis at 415-255-0636.

**Evening Meditation.** Join us for meditation Monday through Thursday at 7:45 p.m. This includes some chanting, pranayama, and silence, and lasts 40 minutes. Please come a few minutes early. There is no charge. Thursdays we offer an Introduction to Meditation at 7:30 p.m. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

**Hauling.** Schlepper Bros. Fast, fair, and fantastic. Yogic, caring, and brave. Sustainability activist. 824-4214.

**Architect.** New buildings, remodels, additions. Very good record getting city approvals for projects. Innovative design and traditional (Victorian) design. On-site consultation on any project. Reasonable fees. Licensed architect for over 23 years. In Noe Valley since 1981. Call Michael Hager at 415-285-7409.

**House Cleaning Available.** Experienced, references, reliable, own car. Call Nilda and Cris, 650-991-3953.

**Home and Petsitting Service.** Leave your cares behind while I provide professional guardianship of your home, and loving attention for the pet members of your family, while you travel. Five-star references. Pamela, 415-279-8376.

**Overwhelmed by Clutter?** As featured on HGTV, NPR, and the *Chronicle*, ShipShape has expertly helped overworked professionals, frazzled moms, and harassed homeowners cut through clutter and restore simplicity and peace of mind to their busy lives. Homes, offices, closets, relocations, and more. Free phone consultation and brochure. Call 415-550-0658.

## CLAS ADS

**San Francisco Real Estate Sales:** Steven, agent. Buyers and sellers welcome. 415-751-2200, ext. 121. Please visit my web site, [www.closingshycourtney.com](http://www.closingshycourtney.com). Frank Howard Allen Realtors, an independently owned and operated real estate brokerage.

**House Cleaning.** Homes, apartments, offices. References available. Experienced. Call Kathia or Theresa, 650-757-9006.

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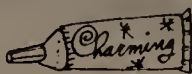
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The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the May 2002 issue, distributed in Noe Valley on or before May 1. **THE DEADLINE FOR CLASS ADS IS APRIL 15, 2002.**

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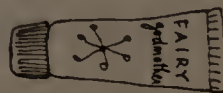
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## and now for the RUMORS behind the news

### Noe Joke

By Mazook

**DOGGONE BEEPING BUSES:** The San Francisco Municipal Railway has spent 20 bazillion dollars on their brand new electric buses, which went into service at the end of last year. And by now they must have received 19 bazillion complaints from people who live along the routes. The problem is the industrial-level beeping noise the buses make when they use their turn signals.

"We have measured it at 92 decibels," says Joseph Hughes, spokesperson for the Committee for Quieter Buses, a new city-wide group based in Noe Valley. "For those of us who live on a 24-hour electric trolley line—for me it's the No. 24 line—the effect of these new turn signals is like living in a construction zone 24 hours a day. It's as if a beeping backhoe or bulldozer is going by, roughly every 10 to 20 minutes, all day and all night."

It seems that there have also been a lot of complaints about the volume and frequency of street announcements, which come boom-boxing out the door as passengers enter and exit the coach.

"We think that the frequency and noise levels of the public announcements in the bus, as well as the blasting turn-signal beepers are going to drive passengers away because it has become so annoying," complains Hughes.

Since he lives near the corner of 26th and Castro, a turning point for the 24 bus, Hughes says that he is now sleeping in his dining room in the middle of his house, "because my bedroom overlooks the street and the noise was severely disturbing my sleep."

At press time, Muni had arranged two meetings with the Quieter Buses Committee and sent out their general superintendent of safety and training, Bud McNaughton, to hear the residents' concerns. According to Hughes, "The discussions were very productive."

Something must be happening, since the beeps lately have become "muffled," he says. Reliable sources say Muni's muting mechanism for these million-dollar machines is, believe it or not, duct tape.



**BIG WHEEL, KEEP ON ROLLIN':** Those opting for bicycle transportation will be delighted to learn that the Board of Supervisors recently passed Mark Leno's resolution to create a striped bike lane on San Jose Avenue, northbound from Milton Street to Randall Street and southbound from Randall to the Arlington Street exit, and on the Arlington Street off-ramp between San Jose and Arlington.

Evidently, what impressed the supervisors was the success of the new Valencia Street bike lanes and the need for cyclists to link up with San Jose Avenue.

Leno's original plan included bike lanes on Dolores Street from 29th Street to Dolores' merge with San Jose Avenue. But a lot of folks protested that a traffic mess would be created by narrowing Dolores to one lane in both directions for those three blocks. Of great concern was the effect the narrowing would have had on parking for Reilly's funeral home, which the neighborhood had fought to preserve over the last two years. Neighbors also feared traffic gridlock would occur on Dolores during the morning and evening commutes. Also in the mix was the controversy over the traffic signal at 30th and Dolores that was installed last year to replace the four-way stop sign, which many neighbors insist worked so well for so many years (like those old electric buses).

The neighbors contend that the new traffic signal has encouraged drivers to speed along Dolores Street to make the green light, and that people take their lives in their hands when crossing the street. Valley Street resident Dave Monks, who is an avid supporter of restoration of the four-way stop sign, insists, "Green lights at that corner do not have any traffic calming effects for drivers."

Well, according to Upper Noe Neighbors President Vicki Rosen, the stoplight battle might be close to a resolution. The Department of Parking and Traffic has just informed her that starting around April 1 the signal will be switched to flashing lights during the night. "They told me that there will be four-way flash-

ing red lights from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m.," she says. (Let's hope the lights don't beep.)

You might also see more police in the vicinity during the day, nabbing the speeders and red-light runners...so slow down already.



**SLOW, ENCHANTED FOOD:** Everyone has their eyes on the new restaurant being constructed on the corner of Church and Duncan streets, where Speckmann's once reigned. Mark Pastore bought the building, gutted the insides, and has been working for over a year to build out what will no doubt become a hot spot for the city's culinary crowd.

"We are hoping to open in a couple of months and start serving a rustic [country-style] Italian cuisine," says Pastore, who will be calling the place Incanto, which means "enchantment" in Italian.

"Paul Boscemi will be our chef, and Claudio Villani, who just arrived from Florence, Italy, will be the dining room manager and professional sommelier. He'll stock our wine cellar with some very special wines that are not well known outside Italy, and are good values." The wine cellar will be climate-controlled, natch.

The floor of the entrance will be finished with marble from Italy, the walls of the dining rooms are all mahogany paneled with handcrafted stone detailing, and the room will have brick, barrel-vaulted ceilings. Local muralist Tom Mogenson will create something appropriately enchanting to put on the banquet room wall, Pastore says.

And the scoop on Isabella's Ice Cream and Dessert Café is that the controversy has subsided. We reported last month that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 52

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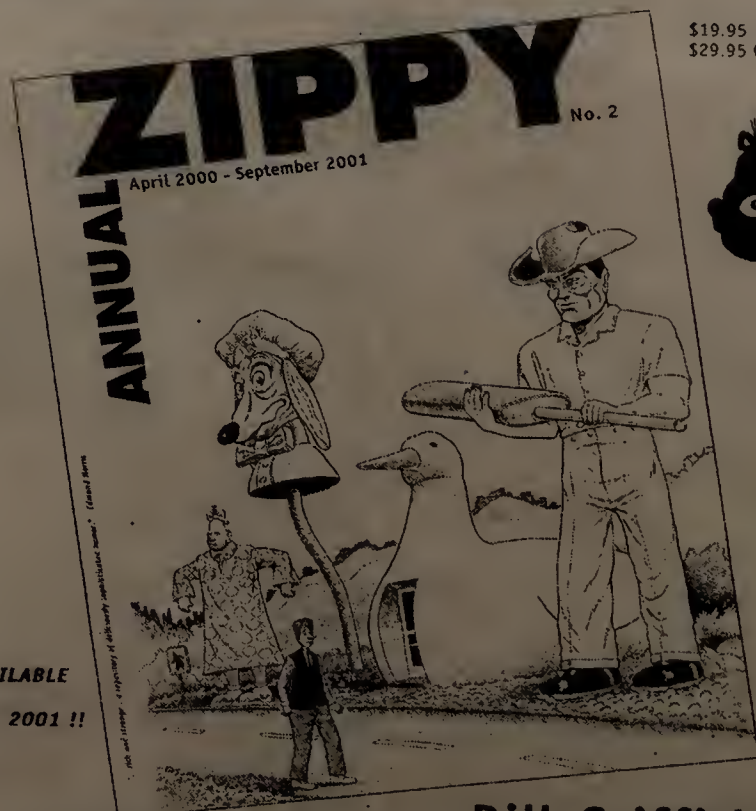
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# RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 51

Rory's Twisted Scoop closed and Isabella's would soon open. Eagle-eyed neighbors observed the remodeling work, and for whatever reasons, feared Isabella's was going to become a fast-food joint. They called City Hall, which brought out the building inspectors. Well, it appears that the neighbors' fears have been assuaged, and we're only talking ice cream and cake, and Isabella's will open soon. Hurry.



**SHORT SHRIFTS:** What's up, you ask, with the renovated but still vacant Star Bakery at Church and 29th? The building is still for sale, and the asking price is \$1.2 million.

The Episode is the name of a new hair salon and spa, opened by Steffon Yan on March 22, at 1360 Church Street near Clipper. Currently there are three hair stylists rarin' to go, and Steffon says that by this month, "facials, nail, and massage services" will be available.

Meanwhile, up Church Street at the corner of 25th, the building that was most recently owned by ophthalmologist Dr. Robert Neger, has been sold. That's not news. However, the rumor is that an "up-scale" salon and spa is being planned (permit applications have been posted) for the location.

And two doors down from there, at 1311 Church Street, an art gallery has been opened by Noe Valley resident Melissa Peline. "I have a background in art history and worked downtown in two galleries. Now I walk to work and bring

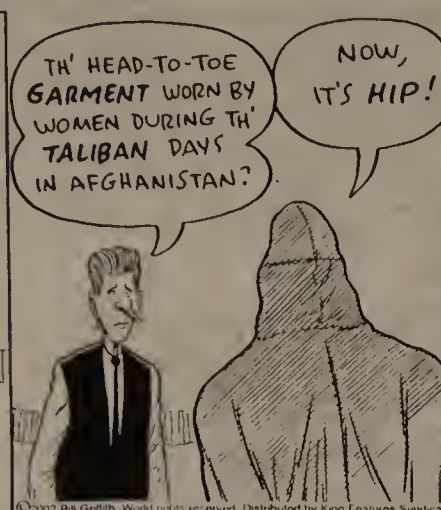


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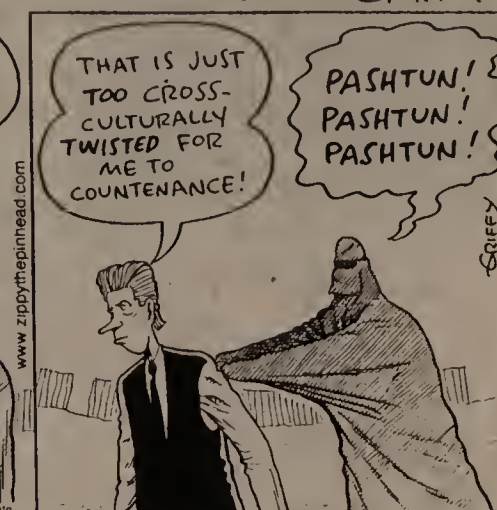
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my dog, Joey Poochiano."

A gift shop named Willa will be opening on the corner of Church and 27th, where the Fountain of Youth used to flow. The sign says it will feature items for "home, garden, and soul — a tiny gift shoppe to stroke the senses."

By the way, I loved that item in Beth Lisick's column on *sfgate.com*: "As for Sharon [Stone], when she recently dined at Noe Valley's Firefly, she apparently found a parking spot on the notoriously busy 24th Street corridor straight away. The restaurant's prices are so reasonable, the extra \$250 for parking in the bus zone probably didn't matter."



**POLL EARTH ACCESS:** Neither new Noe Vee nor old Noe Vee seems to be voting these days. The neighborhood, according to the San Francisco Department

of Elections, had a 38 percent voter turnout in the March 5 primary election. Says the SFDE, there are 16,744 registered voters in our neighborhood, of which 6,382 actually voted. FYI: 10,843 are Democrats (41 percent voted), and just for diversity we have 1,450 Republicans (a few more than 41 percent voted), 635 Green Party members (47 percent voted), and 231 Reform Party members (8 percent voted). The turnout was 32 percent for the 103 American Independents among us and a high 67.7 percent for the 40 Libertarians, but only 2 of the 21 who vote Natural Law showed up at our polls. Mine had cookies, and I was voting strictly orthodox.

As for the results: Gray Davis (who else?) got 85 percent of the Demo vote; and, Simon and Schuster, uh, excuse me, Riordan, almost evenly split the Republican vote.

Half of the Noe Valley Democrats, in the hotly contested 13th State Assembly District, voted for Mark Leno; Harry Britt got a little over 36 percent; Steve Phillips garnered just 9 percent; and 5 percent went to Holly Their.

Other Noe votes of interest were: For assessor, Doris Ward, Ronald Chun, and Mabel Teng divided up the vote fairly evenly, with the ultimate citywide winner being Teng. Public defender Jeff Adachi got almost 3,300 Noe votes, to almost 2,500 for Kimiko Burton. Nancy Davis captured 82 percent of the vote for No. 3 judge, and Gail Dekreoni got almost half of the Noe vote for No. 10 judge.

The Noe Valley Bureau of Investigation conducted a survey of Rumors readers and found a staggering 94 percent of you were registered to vote. Based on NVBI exit polls, it appears that all but 136 of you voted...you know who you are.

That's 30, folks. Happy Earth Day, and ciao for now!

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**The Blessing of the Cellphones.** St. Paul's Church held a special ceremony to exorcise any evil spirits that might be hidden in the circuitry of the neighborhood's wireless telephones. Father Aloysius Sprint offered prayers and advice on how to overcome bad connections, cope with static, and apologize for inadvertant hang-ups. Day Street resident Lady Sybil Service™ was delighted to know she could use her phone without hearing those little devil voices in the background.

Photo by Vera Eisen

## Stroller Snafu

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONESIES

to untangle the two, she tripped over a baby bottle of tofu-apricot juice that had fallen from one of the buggies.

"It was mayhem. Stroller after stroller just piled up," Cleaver said in an interview this morning, covering her ears as if she could still hear the zweiback crumbling and babies laughing.

"There was even a small dog, a tiny thing no bigger than my fist, at least I think it was a dog...anyway it got trapped under one of the stroller hoods," she said. "I was sure the Fire Department would have to use the Jaws of Life."

Police Capt. Noáh Nahnzens said the skidmarks reached clear back to the Coyote Club. He quickly added, "There's no sign that any of the stroller drivers or passengers had been drinking anything stronger than Enfamil and tonic."

At least one childless couple tried to take home an infant who was not theirs, however, Nahnzens said, and a young woman claimed false ownership of the tiny trapped dog. They are being held for further questioning, and charges may be forthcoming.

More disturbingly, he said, one child—discovered drooling in the evidence box by Block—remained unclaimed.

"We're thinking it's either a really big family that doesn't realize he's missing yet—or new parents who returned home and were seduced by the quiet of their house." □

### Terrier Threat E-Z Color Reference

Dot	Color	Eye contact	Common Name
●	Brindle	No way	Killer, Gnasher
●	Blue	Nooo	Mrs. Killer
●	Roan	Nope	Loco
◆	Rufus	Careful	Pork Chop
●	Dun	Maybe	Farful, Snoopy
●	Ecru	Yes	Petunia
○	Peach	Please	Woofiebuttons

## Noe Valley Terrier Risk Today Is Ecru

By Red Buttons

In an attempt by local dogwalkers to allay the fears of local sidewalkers, a new system of color-coding terriers is being tried out on Sanchez Street. The canine conditions range from Brindle and Blue, which require the use of caution, to Dun, Ecru, and Peach for friendly, familiar canines, with Rufus and Roan in that gray area. □



### Baby Overboard!

Cleaning crews have been working around the clock in the aftermath of the 24th Street stroller pileup, which may have also rattled one small dog of indeterminate origin.

Photo by Baby Rebozo

## Talk American or Else English-Only Rule Mucho Riduculoso For Local Merchants

By Martha Washington

Dough Tomato has been a popular restaurant on 24th Street for quite a few years. You probably still call it Pasta Pomodoro, but that's got to change now that the national "Talk American" ruling has outlawed foreign names, words, expressions, and thoughts. And we don't have to worry about pronunciation anymore. Was it Lee Zink? Luh Zank? La Sink? From here on, The Bar Made of Element Number 30 will do just nicely.

In a related ruling, the Supreme Court has thrown out the 1923 Proper Spelling Law, much to the delight of Noe Valley's Rite Aid and Lite for Life. Says Gorge Buch, "In these times of necessary evil, we have words that must be said, and if that's wrong and then we don't know." □

## Clazzifieds

**Men, Are You Ruthless?** If so, I would like to meet you. Call 555-5505, and ask for Ruth.

Occasionally Grumpy Clown available for birthdays, bris, weddings, and funerals. Ask for Pinchy the Clown's neighborhood discount, 415-648-OUCH.

**I Have Been Cleaning Noe Valley for 17 Years** and it's still a mess. Why don't you people just pick up your trash for once? All I do is clean, clean, clean, and you never help out, I mean, I know you're soooo busy but would it kill you to pick up after yourself

**Trite Aid.** Are you surrounded by nitwits? Up to your ears in sentimental pap? Choking on drivel and driven mad by idiocy? Come join us. 7 p.m. Cutie Quilts 'n' Frogs and Things, 5601 24th Street.

**Ferret Chasing Service** of Noe Valley. Established in 1937. Bonded and insured. Will give your pet a run for your money. Please no stairs. Call 415-WEA-SELS.

**Drive-Through Yoga.** Learn your beginning yoga postures without leaving your vehicle. Advanced postures available only in vehicles with bench seats. Driver's window must be fully operable. 555-OMMM.

**Need Junk?** Sick of the minimalist existence? We can provide bona fide junk and bring it straight to your doorstep. Specializing in cat-shredded sofas, stained and slightly mildewed carpet remnants, dented appliances, and board games with a few missing pieces. Call 415-5555.

**Kandahar Vacation Rental** exclusive North Cave. Rustic accommodations, open floor plan, sleeps up to 100. Call 416-TORA-BORA.

**There's No "I" in "Me."** Identity crisis counseling with an emphasis on finding the "u" in "self," the "y" in "should," and all the "t" in "China."



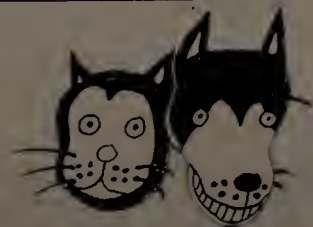
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# Chris Daly Unveils 'Plan 9' for Noe Valley

By Kyra Liaison

Opponents are shouting "Nein!" to Plan 9 from Noe Valley, Supervisor Chris Daly's latest scheme to bolster the neighborhood's sagging economy. This proposed law would set both the minimum and the maximum wage at \$9 per hour. Assuming one puts in a 40-hour work week, local brain surgeons, rocket scientists, and TV personalities would find themselves on the same economic level as toy store clerks and busboys.

It's \$360 a week, full-time. No more, no less. Of course the cost of living has also been adjusted to conform to Plan 9. Rents everywhere will be \$90, per week, per person, which is exactly a quarter of everyone's income, just like they always told us they should be.

Still, people who are used to lording their higher salaries over others cried foul. "You'd better really love slicing up brains," said lobotomist Dr. Phil Isstein, "because for the money you get, you might as well be chopping liver." □



## Happy-nings

**APRIL 1:** "What Shall We Tell The Dogs?" features valuable advice for consoling grieving canines post 9/11. LABSITS at the Noe Valley Library, 555-6095.

**APRIL 1:** Realtor® ELLIS SACKT performs a concert of middle-of-the-road classics, including *Lien on Me*, *I Gotta Escrow*, and *She's a Brick House*. Noe Valley Music Series. 8:15 pm.

**APRIL 1:** Come meet RALPH, whose name appears on all our household products and foodstuffs. 2 pm. Bell Market, near the frozen food case.

**APRIL 1:** RIVERWEED, famous Irish dance troupe and environmental activist organization, uses precision movements to remove choking overgrowth from clogged streams. Performing noon and 2 pm in Glen Canyon.

**APRIL 1:** JOHN EDWARD communicates with the crumbs of breakfast past in *Croissant Over*, a one-man, one-act, one-horse play. 4 pm. For information call Miss Millie's Psychic Hot Line, 555-DEAD.

**APRIL 1:** Foes of Noe Valley plans ways to bring LITTER AND DECAY to one of San Francisco's most gentrified neighborhoods. This month's topic is cigarette butt distribution. Midnight. Wolf Club, 42 24th St.

**APRIL 1:** Brownies or blunts? Sharon Stoned leads an intermediate POT SMOKING workshop for 11- to 14-year-olds with note from a parent. Salt Lick Middle School parking lot, 4 p.m.

**APRIL 1:** AL JAZEERA, with special guest Fatwa Slim, performs forbidden hits, including "Jalalabad to the Bone," "Jihad to Be You," and "Osama Time and the Livin's Queasy." 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Serious at the Noe Valley Ministry.

**APRIL 1:** The VERY ODD MONDAY SERIES at Noe Valley Ministry features one-armed jugglers, tone-deaf chorale singers, and trapeze artists with vertigo.

**APRIL 1:** Geeks Are Really Furious (GARF) members MARCH in protest of nerdy computer workers who "have stolen the name of good people who bite the heads off chickens." Noon, White Hen Pantry.

**APRIL 1:** "Can Having THREE NAMES Make You a Criminal?" is the topic of a panel discussion led by John Wayne Gacy and Cary Louise Stayner at the Honest People of Noe Valley's monthly meeting.

**APRIL 1:** FILMS for preschoolers including *Mommy Dearest*, *Lolita*, and *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?* will be shown at 10:15 a.m. at the Noe Valley Library.

**APRIL 1:** Wimyn's group meeting features analysis of the PATRIARCHAL HEGEMONY in Noe Valley (Herb's Fine Foods, Dan's Auto Service, etc.). No men, male-identified wombyn, non-fymenists, or "surrendered" sorts, please.

## In International News



**Big Car Is Watching You.** Noe Valley has been under random surveillance ever since the introduction of the Ford Ocular, a luxury sedan with a V-8 engine, four on the floor, and one in the forehead. The enormous optical device is actually a model of George Orwell's left eye.

Photo by Pamela Gearshift

## CHEESE IT, THE COPS!

**Making Vaguely Derogatory Comments to Corporate Sell-Out: 8:03 a.m. on April 1; 3800 block of 24th Street**

An employee of Andersen, Shredding, and Howe was walking down the 3800 block of 24th Street on his way to BART when he encountered a motley crowd of transients who appeared to have nothing to do but drink hot beverages, talk, pet small animals, and read newspapers while lolling about in a disorganized manner.

The pencil-pusher noted that as soon as he passed by, the suspects began to cast veiled aspersions, *sotto voce*, such as "wage slave" and "worker drone." Although he was outnumbered, the bean counter managed to scurry to the doorway of a salt mine and call for help. A police dragnet resulted in the arrest of two suspects, who were later identified as Kenneth Lay and the bewhiskered Al Gore.

—Karen Utopian

**Burglary and Forced Entry of Residence: Between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on April 1; 500 block of Br'er Oaks Street**

The fair, flaxen-haired resident of a thatched cottage in the 500 block of Br'er Oaks Street told police that she had locked all the windows and doors of her home before leaving for Hi-Ho Tuffet Solutions, Inc., at 9 a.m., but when she returned at 5 p.m. the front door was open. The targeted part-time shepherdess with eyes the color of a mountain flower found three members of the *Ursus* family asleep in three beds of differing sizes. She also reported there were three half eaten bowls of soymilk and granola, in varying degrees of doneness, left on the kitchen table.

After analyzing the scene, Officer Grimm of the Ingleside Station determined the report was just a fairy tale.

—Bruno Bettelheim

## Noe Valley Named San Francisco's First Official Suburb

Urban Status Revoked

By Darth Stripmall

The votes are in, and it's official: Noe Valley is no longer a part of the city. Maybe it was all the babies, or the SUVs and gotta-drive-everywhere attitude, or just the nicey-nicey feel of 24th Street. Whatever it was, the neighborhood is now required to build mini-malls, and create pertly-named cul-de-sacs.

Since falling off the cutting edge, Noe Valley has instituted a 9 p.m. curfew, and

CONTINUED IN LIVERMORE

## Wrinkle City: 'Geezer Chic' Comes to the 'Hood

By Hermione Gingold

It's just something that happens when you turn 50, like bad knees, low estrogen, and AARP notices in the mail. Old people clothes: nylon windbreakers, high-rise polyester plaid pants, pink sweat-shirts with sequined pictures of kittens. They're worn by coots and biddies everywhere, but few young people know where they came from.

In fact, a list of dotage-appropriate garments and the musty stores that stock them is forwarded to every citizen who crosses the half-century threshold.

Now, Oldey Valley can shop near home — 24th Street's new Wrinkle City carries all the latest fogeywear, with brands including Ralph Boring, Really, Old Navy, and Liz Claidead.

Since Geezer Chic has taken over Noe Valley fashion, teens and 20-somethings are not limiting themselves to wearing the bland, drip-dry uniform of the aged. Male-pattern baldness haircuts and blue rinses are all the rage. Unnecessary dentures and temporary tooth-blackening achieve a look usually associated with years of dental neglect. The real rebels have been getting deep wrinkles surgically added: crow's feet, worry lines, and mouth brackets.

"You really have to work hard for that 'old fart' look, if you're not willing to put in the time to do it naturally," said a 23rd Street teenager who would identify himself only as Elmer Fuddydudley. Halitos-

CONTINUED IN A SENIOR MOMENT



### Blame Us.

Fool's Editors: Karol Barske, Sally Smith

Fool's Photos: Pamela Gerard, Charles Kennard, Beverly Tharp, Jack Tipple

Fools on the Hill: Heidi Anderson, Victoria Colgan, Suzanne Herel, Barb Konecky, Doug Konecky, Erin O'Brian, Elliot Poger, Karen Topakian

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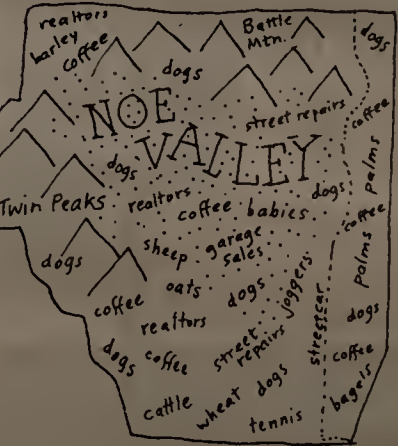
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—Rosie O'Donnell

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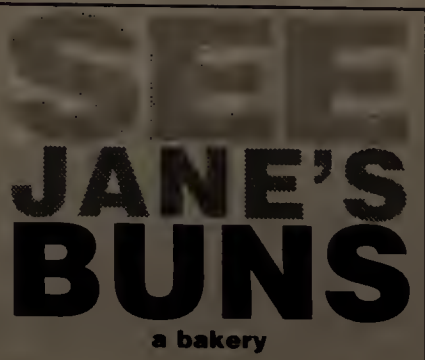
### Noe Valley's Natural Resources.

Our fertile valley is known throughout the world for its rich soil, mild climate, and overabundance of certain crops, especially coffee, wheat, dogs, barley, and babies.

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# THE NOE VALLEY NICE

## Noe Valley's 'New Vigilance'

Neighborhood Steps up Security After Terror Attacks

By El Liot Queda

We have lost our innocence. Since the terrorist attacks of September 2001, there has been a palpable sense of edginess blowing in with the evening fog over our fair neighborhood. Although the terrorist acts to date have taken place thousands of miles away, few neighborhood residents who understand our unique position as the Center of the Universe can pretend that Noe Valley is not on the minds of our nefarious enemies. And thus we stand guard against those who would do us ill.

This new vigilance can be seen in the steely eyes of the National Guardsmen who enforce the one-hour limit on free parking at Walgreen's. It can be felt in the determination of the Noe Valley Post Office workers who handle our mail with salad tongs. It can be heard in the barks of the Jack Russell terriers, defending our homes against falling leaves. It can be seen in the singlemindedness of residents to find Osama bin Laden before someone else gets the \$25 mill.

And it rings loud and strong in the words of the oldtimers ordering biscuits at the counter of Herb's Final Foods: "Hey waitress, let's roll."

Lester Haddock, Commander in Chief of the Noe Valley Professional Mercenary Association, has stepped forward to lead the people of Noe Valley through this difficult time. Immediately after the terrorist attacks, he was whisked into a taxicab and driven randomly around a secret area dubbed "The Outer Sunset" to evade any possible followup acts of violence. This area had been laid out specifically for this sort of circumstance, in such a way that every block looks the same and thus confuses enemy forces.

Within days, the cab had run out of gas and Haddock had wandered back into Noe Valley, where he warned rogue neighborhoods against taking advantage of the current confusion and harming the local business interests. "Make no mistake," Haddock said, "Willie Brown is on our side in this crusade. We are under attack by the Axis of Evil: Iraq, Iran, and West Portal. So help me, Hannah, our stroller-pushing, Passat-driving yuppie spirit won't be crushed by these evildoers."

Haddock, a former underwear model, has enjoyed an unprecedented level of popularity in the wake of this new vigilance. He has taken advantage of this political capital to push through measures like the computerized facial-recognition system at Just for Kicks/Toasterstrudels.

Although some pinko kooks have objected to these measures as "abridging our constitutional rights," or some such drivel, Haddock stands firm in defense of our way of life.

"If we stop double parking for single lattes, they've already won." □



**Everybody Reads the Voice.** Church Street resident Ozzie Beladen may have just moved here from the Carlsbad Caverns area, but he already knows where to get the latest news. Beladen hopes to find a job working with neighborhood students to encourage "family values" of modesty and piety in Noe Valley.

Photo by Charlie Kendahor

## Economic Downturn Allows Realtors To Pursue Their Dreams

B.J. Droubi Starts Taking in Wash

By Doris Kearns Barske

After years of nonstop toil in the booming real estate market of the last few years, some local realtors have found the silver lining in the cloud of the dot-com crash. With time on their hands and nothing on their plates, these agents are turning in their sales books and going off to chase after their dreams.

Brian Easement, formerly of Cold-hearted Banker, is now raising Cornish

hens in a corner of his rented room on Noe Street. "I've always dreamed of this, and now I'm actually doing it," he said.

His former colleague, Anne Testate, is now making crocheted cords with the use of a knitting mushroom. "It's a skill I learned in high school, and I guess I just never forgot it," she smiled.

CONTINUED IN BOLINAS



### Welcome to Hard Times

Morty Gage of Doormat Realty on Homestead Street tried to hide the inner desperation and seething turmoil he has been feeling since he's been forced to survive on the slim pickings of a realtor's commission.

Photo by Po' Gerr

## Buggy Mishap Throws Baby Out With Bathwater

By the San Francisco Herel-Tribune

The sidewalk in front of Small Fries is expected to remain closed for at least a year as city crews sweep up after a 15-pram pileup caused by yesterday's dense fog, said Rhodes Block, spokesman for the Department of Public Works.

"I've got to say, I've never seen anything like this," said Block, sorting through a box of debris in the parking lot of Bell Market this morning in search of a lost "binky."

No one was hurt in the accident, which occurred shortly before 4 p.m. on April 1, and was attributed by police to the carpet of fog that blanketed 24th Street in the afternoon.

"We've got unclaimed pacifiers, bottles, blankies, hankies, switchblades, Nuks... and look," Block said, unraveling a baby-blue blanket, "one unclaimed bundle of joy."

The startled infant in question promptly burped and bit Block's finger.

"We were lucky to reunite about half of the babies involved with their proper parents right away," he said. "I'm confident that in the coming weeks, the ownership issue will sort itself out."

Block noted that many of the families involved also owned dogs, which are adept at sniffing out strangers and will be more curious about a baby who was brought home in error.

"Sometimes parents get confused," he said. "Babies are almost all smallish and bald, they all say 'goo,' and they all tend to look like either Truman Capote or Genghis Khan."

Police said the accident happened when June Cleaver, mother of Noe Street septuplets, stopped her six-seater stroller to admire the pink fur-footed Versace jammies in the window of Small Fries. "I was just wondering if they came in my size," she claimed.

Moments later, Cleaver told police, she heard a crash and saw that her neighbor had rammed her stroller-utility-vehicle with another pram. When she reached

THIS ONE REALLY CONTINUES ON PAGE 2

## You've Got Ralph In Your Cupboard

By CalaBelle Reeve

Almost anyone in Noe Valley with a stomach to feed or a house to clean knows the name Ralph. His moniker appears on countless products sold in Bell Market, replacing the former house brand, Springfield. But who is this Ralph, and where did he come from?

Ralph, 83, was born on a mountaintop in Tennessee, greenest state in the land of the free; killed him a bear when he was